

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE

THE SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS

APPOINTED TO

ENQUIRE INTO THE PRESENT STATE

OF THE

AFFAIRS OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY,

AND INTO THE

TRADE BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN, THE EAST INDIES,
AND CHINA ;

and to report to the House.

Ordered to be printed 19th July 1830.

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Die Veneris, 18^o Junii 1830.

Evidence on
the Affairs of
the East India
Company, &c.

H. Magniac, Esq.

The LORD PRESIDENT in the Chair.

HOLLINGWORTH MAGNIAC Esquire is called in, and examined as follows :

You were an Agent at Canton, were you not?

I was.

For how many Years?

I first went out in 1809; I returned Home finally in January 1827; I was at Home at Two Intervals during that Period; I was not resident there the whole of the Time.

Did you transact Business on your own Account, as well as for your Constituents?

Occasionally.

To any Extent?

To a considerable Extent in Opium, and also in Goods to England latterly.

Who were your principal Employers; Persons engaged in the Country Trade entirely?

Almost entirely.

Have you at any Time done any Business for Persons residing in England?

Very trifling.

Of what Articles did their Exports consist?

Formerly there was a little Business going on in Prussian Blue, and a few Manufactures of that Kind from England; but of late Years that has been entirely done away by the Chinese having acquired the Art of making it themselves; it was to a small Extent.

Were you at any Time engaged in selling Woollens or Cottons for English Merchants?

Never Woollens, that I recollect; and very little Cottons during my Time; but since I have been away, I believe the House has had considerable Consignments in Cottons and Cotton Yarns, but to what Extent I am unable to say.

During the whole of that Period it would have been possible, would it not, to have sent the Manufactures of England to Singapore, and thence tranship them to China?

I conceive it would.

What would have been the Charge of transhipping those Goods outwards at Singapore?

I am not aware what Commission the Agent would charge there, but I believe so much a Package; I should not think it can amount to more than a Half per Cent.; not One per Cent.

With that additional Charge, English Manufactures could then, and can now, be sent to China?

I conceive so.

That would be the Amount of Charge additional to that which would be incurred, if they were sent directly to China?

Yes; English Manufactures could then and can now be sent direct to China in the Company's Ships, with the Exception of Woollens.

H. Magniac, Esq.

To what Extent may they be sent by the Company's Ships?

To a considerable Extent; the Ships go out almost empty direct to China.

Do the Merchants of Great Britain consign any Quantity of Goods direct to China by those Ships?

Yes; there is no Impediment, I believe.

If those Goods are sent in the Company's Ships, do the Company's Factors sell them at Canton, or do the Owners sell them by means of their own Agents?

The Company's Agents are not permitted to transact any Business, excepting for the Company.

The Price of Woollens and of Cottons having fallen about Fifty per Cent. in the Course of the last Ten Years, and such Facilities as you have mentioned existing, of sending British Manufactures to Canton by the Company's Ships, and by the Channel of Singapore, to what Circumstances do you attribute the Non-existence of any considerable Export of those Manufactures?

I have stated the Facilities to exist, because I am not aware of any Impediment, but I have never tried them myself. The Impediment consists in the Difficulty of making Returns direct to England.

The British Merchant has at present, has he not, the Means of exporting from China, by way of Singapore, all Chinese Produce and Manufactures to England, with the Exception of Tea?

Yes, I believe he has.

With the small additional Charge upon Transhipment you have mentioned at Singapore?

Yes.

It is therefore the Want of the Remittance in Tea which, in your Opinion, creates the great Difficulty in the Returns?

The Want of some Returns. Tea would be a very eligible one, no doubt.

Are there not at present all other Kinds of Remittance, except that by Tea?

Yes, I believe there are. There are Means of making Returns in the Company's Ships to a certain Extent in the Commanders and Officers Privilege.

Will you have the goodness to explain the Course of Trade which you carried on when you resided at Canton?

The Trade we carried on, independently of acting as Agents, was principally in Opium, almost entirely indeed; and the simple Proceeding in that was, to remit Funds from China to India for the Purchase of the Opium, which was then transmitted to the House in China, and the Funds returned again to India for a Repetition of the Proceeding the ensuing Season.

What was the Course of the Trade which passed through your Hands as Agents?

Consignments from India, and a Return of the Funds there or to England, if possible, as we were instructed.

Did you, to a considerable Extent, return those Funds to England?

As far as we were able ourselves, we did so.

In what Articles did you return those Funds to England?

We generally sent Home such Goods as we thought would answer our Purpose in England, and drew against them.

What were those Goods?

Raw Silk, Silk Piece Goods, Nankeens, and also Bullion and Dollars occasionally. The Remittances in Bullion and Dollars have occurred of late Years, since the Exchange has been so low.

Was the Profit upon those Articles considerable generally?

No, certainly not.

Those Returns only effected the Object of remitting your Funds to H. Magniac, Esq.
England ?

Exactly ; and would only be done when the Exchange was very low in China — such as 4s. to 4s. 2d.

Where did you purchase the Opium which you exported to China ?

At the Company's Sales, through our Agents, either at Bombay or Bengal.

Did you ever purchase any at the Portuguese Settlement ?

Never, while the Concern was under my Management.

Have you ever exported Turkey Opium ?

No ; but we have purchased it very often in China.

To any considerable Extent ?

Sometimes to a considerable Extent.

Is the Sale of Turkey Opium so considerable in China as to interfere with the Price of the Opium from Bengal ?

It no doubt interferes so far as it increases the Quantity imported, and is likely to do so more, perhaps, as I believe its Consumption has greatly increased.

Is it as well adapted to the Taste of the Chinese as that from India ?

No, it is not.

For what Purpose is that Opium generally used ?

For smoking, I believe ; for Medical Purposes ; that it is much stronger and better ; but it is not so pleasant for smoking, being stronger ; and I believe the Chinese mix it with the other Kinds.

Do you know whether the Trade in Turkey Opium is increasing ?

It has increased.

As rapidly as the Trade in Opium from India ?

I believe about as rapidly, supposing my Information to be correct.

What is the present Price of a Chest of Bengal Opium ?

The latest Price Current I have received was dated in December last ; 830 Dollars per Chest for Patna Opium was there quoted.

What was the Price of Malwa Opium at the same Time ?

At that Time the Malwa was 780 Dollars, but in January it was 730, a Fall of Fifty Dollars having taken place on the Malwa, but on the Patna.

What was the Price of Turkey Opium at that Time ?

700 Dollars.

Is not the Price of the Malwa Opium usually higher than that of the Bengal Opium ?

It was during the early Importations very much below the Patna and Benares, which it gradually attained, or nearly so ; but by the last Accounts it appears to be 100 Dollars under those Kinds.

Is the Opium of Patna used for the same Purposes as the Opium of Malwa ?

It is all used for the same Purposes.

What has been, within your Recollection, the Price of Patna Opium ?

Extremely various. I have known it as low as 700 Dollars, and I have known it as high as 2,000 Dollars.

Have you known so great a Variation in the Price of Malwa Opium ?

Not so great. The Malwa Opium has been introducing itself gradually for a Series of Years, and has been working upwards with reference to the Patna, returning a comparative Value.

The Malwa has more Strength, has it not ?

The Chinese use it entirely for smoking ; and in reducing it to a fit State for that Purpose, the Patna produces usually Fifty or Fifty-one per Cent. of smokable Extract. The Malwa, on the contrary, should yield from Seventy to

H. Magniac, Esq. Seventy-four or Seventy-five. Seventy-two may be taken as the Average, when of good Quality.

Is the smokable Extract produced by the Patna Opium superior to that produced by the Malwa Opium?

I believe it is considered more delicate, and it would appear to be so, as the Price has almost always exceeded that of the other Kinds.

The Price has never been in the Proportion which the smokable Extract of one Opium bore to the smokable Extract of the other?

In the earlier Introduction of the Malwa, the Disproportion was very great in that Respect; but the Malwa Opium was then working up-hill into general Use; now it has become more nearly equal in that Respect.

It appears by the Account of the Value and Quantities of Cargoes imported into Canton and Macao on the Tonnage employed in the Country Trade, Page 44, that in the Year 1817-18, 2,435 Chests of Opium were imported into China; in the Year 1820-21, 3,377; in the Year 1823-24, 5,930; in the Year 1825-26, 11,050; and in the Year 1827-28, 9,475 Chests; are you enabled to state what the Imports into China were in the Years 1828-29 and 1829-30, specifying the Quantity of Turkey and Indian Opium?

I am afraid that I cannot give the Imports separately, but the total Amount of Indian Opium consumed in China in the Year 1828-9 was 13,132 Chests, shewing an Increase over the previous Year of 3,657 Chests, and yielding in Dollars 12,533,115. The Quantity of Turkey Opium consumed in that Year was 1,600 Peculs. The Chests of Indian Opium are assumed to contain each a Pecul; they contain much more in fact when it first arrives in China, but a considerable Reduction in Weight occurs in the keeping. A Pecul consists of a Hundred Catties. On its Arrival in China, a Chest of Indian Opium usually weighs about a Hundred and fifteen Catties, but it loses so much in the Course of a few Months that a Chest which weighed a Hundred and twelve originally will yield at the End of the Season a Hundred Catties only. The Turkey Opium consumed as before stated amounted in Value to 1,040,000 Dollars, making a Total of 13,573,115 Dollars for the total Consumption of Opium, Indian and Turkey, for China in that Year.

Will you state the Quantities in 1829 and 1830?

I can state for that Year the different Quantities sold by the Company. In Calcutta the Patna and Benares amounted to 7,909 Chests. The Quantity of Malwa declared for Sale was not to exceed 4,000 Chests; I have taken it therefore at that Amount. The Opium that came into China through the Portuguese Settlement of Darnaun amounted (and it had all arrived in China) to 4,596 Chests, making a Total for the Market in 1829-30 of Chests 16,305. Of the Turkey Opium for that Year I have no Account, but I have estimated the Quantity for that Year at 1,800 Peculs, which I think may be about the Amount, which would make a Total of 18,105 Chests of Opium.

Can you state the Value of that Importation in 1829-30?

I have an actual Return of Consumption for the first Six Months of that Year; the Year commences on the 1st of April 1829; the actual Consumption of the first Six Months in Indian Opium amounted to 8,041 Chests, and yielded 7,161,154 Dollars. In order to arrive at a Conclusion for the ensuing Six Months, of which I have no actual Return, I have therefore taken a sort of Average, under the latest Quotations of Prices which I have received, shewing a Fall of nearly 100 Dollars in the Malwa Opium; supposing the same Number of Chests to be consumed in the last Six Months, therefore, they would produce 6,600,000 Dollars, shewing a Total of 13,760,000 Dollars. I find that the Price of Turkey Opium had increased very much, having attained 700 Dollars, while the Malwa was only 730. That is quite at variance with my Experience formerly.

What would be the total Amount of that Opium imported into China in the Year 1829-30, if the whole of the Turkey Opium had been sold at the Price you have stated?

I estimate the Consumption at 1,800 Peculs, but I may be mistaken. Supposing that to be correct, however, the Amount would be, 1,260,000; but
as

as this kind is very fluctuating in its Consumption and Price, I am almost *H. Magniac, Esq.* unable to make an Estimate with any Certainty.

To what Circumstance do you attribute the great Increase of the Opium Trade within the last Ten Years ; was it formerly conducted under different Circumstances ?

In some Degree it was ; but I think that it has been gradually extending itself over China, owing to the Price being now much lower than it was when the Quantity was smaller.

What has been the Diminution in Price, on an Average ?

That is a Matter of Calculation, which I cannot answer without going back to previous Years, and comparing the Prices.

Was the Price of 2,000 Dollars you mentioned for Patna Opium an extraordinary Price ?

It was a very high Price. I believe it has been as high as 2,500 at one Time, but not at the Time I was in China.

Should you say that, on the Average, the Price of Opium had fallen Fifty per Cent. ?

I think I may say Forty per Cent.

Was not the whole of the Trade formerly carried on at Macao ?

Yes.

What Circumstance induced the Merchants Importers to deviate from the Practice of transacting the whole of their Opium Business at Macao ?

The Duties and Charges that the Portuguese imposed, and the Difficulties the Mandarins there threw in the Way of the Trade, which partially drove it to Whampoa, and finally and entirely to the Place where it is now carried on.

At Periods when the ordinary Trade of the Company has been interrupted, has the Opium Trade been interrupted likewise ?

That would have no Effect upon it, generally speaking.

Is it understood that the Importation of Opium from Darnaun has been very profitable ?

It has been very profitable, but not the last Season.

Do you know in what Manner the Opium is brought to Darnaun ?

I do not ; I have no local Knowledge in that Quarter.

In whose Hands is that particular Branch of the Trade ?

The Hands of the Parsees principally.

Do the Portuguese share in it to any Extent ?

To a certain Extent they do, but not to a great Extent.

What is the Price of a Chest of Opium at Calcutta ?

It varies very much.

What is the average Price, when you speak of the Price at Canton being 700 Dollars ?

I should think about 1,500 to 1,700 Rupees ; but I have not Data to give an accurate Answer to that Question, it varies so very much.

If the Price of the Calcutta Opium were lowered, even in a small Degree, could the Turkey Opium come into competition with it ?

The lowering the Price of the Bengal Opium must affect the Price of the Turkey Opium.

Do you know at what Price Turkey Opium can be imported at a Profit ?

I do not know ; for I never purchased any in Europe. It is principally in the Hands of the Americans ; in fact, almost entirely in the Hands of one American House, who have nearly a Monopoly of it in China. By holding such large Quantities, they have a great Command of the Market there.

You do not know whether it has been a profitable Transaction or not, at the Rate of 700 Dollars a Chest ?

I should think it must have been so ; but that is the latest Price. I have known

H. Magniac, Esq. known it 450, and 500, and 550. It has risen very considerably since I left China, Two Years ago. It fluctuated very much, according to the Quantities thrown in, and the Turkey being principally in one House, they controlled the Market almost as they pleased.

Are you able to state at what Price it becomes a profitable Transaction to the Proprietor?

I am not at all; for I do not know what Price they give for it at Smyrna.

Do the Chinese Authorities never interfere with the Importation of Opium?

It is not imported regularly; it is sent into the Country from the Ships. Every now and then there is a very strong Edict issued against the Trade; but, like other Chinese Edicts, it is nearly powerless. It imposes a little Difficulty perhaps for the Moment, and enables the Mandarins to extort from the Dealers.

Do the Russians import any on the Frontier?

No, I should think not; I never heard of their importing any. The Russians made an Attempt, some Years ago, to come to China by Sea, and there came down an Order to seize the Two Ships, and they would have been seized but that they had luckily sailed. They were under our Management; but long before I was in China an Order came down to seize the Ships, and send up every Man in Confinement. The Emperor did not understand how they could come to China from Two opposite Quarters. The Chinese said the English must have shewn them the Way, or they never could have found it.

It appears, by the Return to which Reference has already been made of the Imports into Canton, that the largest Import of Cotton was 342,735 Pekuls in 1826-27; that the Imports in 1825-26 and 1827-28 were about equal, amounting to a little more than 270,000 Peculs in each Year; will you state any Information you may possess as to the Imports of Cotton in 1828-29 and 1829-30?

I can state the Imports in the Year 1828-29, as taken from the Canton Register, and I believe that Source of Information to be correct. The Importation in that Year, from the 1st of April to the 15th of February, when probably the whole for that Season had arrived, was, from Bombay, 112,631 Bales; from Bengal, 58,326; from Madras, 13,643; making a Total of 184,600 Bales, weighing 474,223 Peculs, or 63,229,700 Pounds Weight. The Source from whence I get this Information does not give the Value it yielded in China, but I have taken the Average of it at Nine Tales, which would shew in Dollars 5,552,875.

Have there been any considerable Variations in the Price of Raw Cotton in China of late Years?

It has declined very much of late Years.

Has the Quality of it been equally good with that of the Cotton formerly imported into Canton?

The Quality when first I knew Canton was very much superior, or there was a Portion of it very superior. That superior Description now probably finds its way to Europe.

Did it appear to you that the Cotton was inferior generally in its Mode of cleaning, to what it was formerly?

The superior Kinds were, of course, better cleaned, they could afford the Expence; the inferior Kinds not so well cleaned.

Have the goodness to look at this Account, and state whether the Import of any smaller Articles of Account has increased within the last Two Years? (*The Account No. 29. being shewn to the Witness.*)

I think I can hardly speak to that. I have been away Four Years, and these are minor Articles that come in small Quantities only.

Do they appear in the Price Current?

They do.

Can you state from the Price Current whether there has been any Increase in the Importation of them? *H. Magniac, Esq.*

I should imagine the small Articles from the Straits continue much the same, but there has been an Increase in some Articles; for instance, Woollen Cloths, Cotton Goods, and Cotton Yarn.

Whence have those Woollens been imported?

From England; by the Americans almost entirely.

The Account refers to the Country Trade only; have Woollens been imported by the Country Trade?

I am not aware of that.

Have Cotton Manufactures?

Cotton Manufactures, to a certain Extent, have come from England by India; but that is a Branch of Trade which has sprung up principally since I left China.

Do you understand, from the Accounts you have received since you left the Country, that the Importation of Cotton Manufactures is increasing?

My Account is not very positive; but I should apprehend it is increasing.

The Inhabitants generally are clothed in Cotton, are they not?

Almost entirely, excepting the richer Classes.

Are the Cottons of England cheaper than their Cottons?

Their Cottons are very cheap and very strong. I should think, with the present low Prices of Cotton here, we should compete with them in point of Price, but that our Cotton Articles are not so strong as theirs.

If they could obtain for less Money as good an Article as they obtain from their own Manufacturers, have they any Prejudice that would prevent their purchasing it?

I believe none whatever. The Duty on the Raw Material brought into China is so very trifling, and Labour is so cheap, that they can manufacture it very cheaply themselves.

The Value of the Imports into China having increased so much within the last Ten Years, in what Manner have the Returns been made?

In Bullion, in Bars, in Dollars; principally broken Dollars, and in Goods and Bills of Exchange.

Have the goodness to state the Proportion?

To England, Silk, Piece Goods, Raw Silk, Drugs, and Nankeens, are the principal Articles.

Those you consider as merely effecting a Remittance?

Yes, merely.

Have they been to any considerable Amount?

I should think the Raw Silk and Nankeens have, as our House have drawn already this Season about £120,000 against Remittances of that kind, by which I conclude that they are sending considerable Remittances.

What do you apprehend to be the total Value of the Remittances made direct from China to England in Goods, as the Returns of the Country Trade?

I am hardly able to speak to that; I have not made a Calculation of that.

In what are the Remittances made to India?

In Bullion, Bars, Dollars, and in Goods, of which there is a long List, and Bills of Exchange.

Have you the Quantities?

No, I have not; with some Exceptions they are very trifling; the principal are Sugar, Sugar Candy, Cassia, and Raw Silk of a coarse Kind to Bombay, and also some of the finer Kind sent eventually, I suppose, to England; some Nankeens, Pepper, Glass Beads, Fruits, and Ginger.

H. Magniac, Esq.

Have the goodness to state what Proportion of the Returns was made in Bullion?

The Exportation of Bullion from China in the Year 1827-28, which might possibly include a small Amount to London, but I am not aware whether that was the Fact, was 5,668,000 Dollars.

All Silver Bullion?

Yes.

Is that larger than the usual Export into India from China of late Years?

It is rather larger. That of 1828-29 I have not got for the whole Year, only up to the 15th of February, when there had been exported 4,622,298 Dollars, of which the greater Portion was in broken Dollars.

Why are they broken?

The Chinese in paying Dollars to each other have a Practice, with a small Iron Stamp, of striking a Print upon each Dollar, as a Mark of their own; the Consequence is, that as every body who pays a Dollar gives it a Blow of that kind, they soon become cut into small Pieces, so that when exported they are sent to the Mint.

Have you known any Attempts to carry on a Trade in Opium on the Coast of China?

Yes, there have been several, but I believe not with much Success; I believe we were concerned in one or two Attempts during my Absence in China, which we were not encouraged to pursue.

Have any Attempts been made to carry on a Trade in Cotton or any other Articles on the Coast of China?

Previously to my Arrival in China, I think in 1806 or 1807, the House I afterwards joined sent a Cargo of Cotton to Amoy, under an Engagement of joint Participation with a Native of Chinchoo residing at Canton, which he gave Expectations of being a very profitable Concern, under the Management at that Port of a Relative of his own. My Recollection is not very distinct as to the Particulars of this Transaction having taken place previous to my Arrival in China, but the Result was, that the Mandarin's Exactions in that Port were so great, and such Difficulties were thrown into the Way, that the Chinchoo-man's Relation on the Spot was unable to effect the Sale, and the Ship returned to Canton with the Cargo unsold.

Has the Cultivation of Cotton been increased in China of late Years?

Our Information is very vague in regard to the Interior of China, but I apprehend it must have increased, from the Circumstance of their Price having fallen considerably.

Do you expect that the Importation of Cotton Yarn will increase?

Judging from what has taken place since I left China, with the detail of which I am not very well acquainted, however, I think it very likely it will.

Are you of opinion that the Possession of a Power of making Returns direct from China in Teas would greatly facilitate the Transactions of the Indian Trade generally?

There is no doubt it would. The Facility of making any Returns would be a great Advantage to the Trade.

If the Export of Manufactures to China has been profitable to those who have been engaged in it, to what Circumstances do you attribute the Diminution in the Exports of Manufactures to China by the Americans, and the Circumstance of their carrying on the greatest Part of their Trade in Dollars?

I believe that their Trade in Woollens has been profitable of late Years, since the late Fall of Price here. I was not aware that their Trade in Woollens was decreasing.

Do you apprehend they will continue to carry on the Trade in Dollars?

I think, if the present Exchange continues, or should fall even lower, as is probable, that they will go out to China provided with Credits or Bills on England, and raise their Funds on the Spot.

Are you of opinion that the Trade of the Americans, and the Country Trade of India, derive great Advantages from the Existence of the East India Company, as a trading Company at Canton?

H. Magniac, Esq.

I think the American Trade in Teas did derive a great Advantage from the Company, so long as the Company continued to make their Advances in the previous Season for the Teas to be delivered to them the ensuing Season; but that System is now discontinued by the Company.

In what Way did that give an Advantage to the Americans?

The Tea Merchants, that is, the Persons who contract with the Hong Merchants to deliver the Teas to them and collect them in the Country, are generally without Capital, and depend therefore upon the Hong Merchant's Advances to make their Purchases for the ensuing Season. Those Advances were formerly made by the Company many Years; but have been discontinued, in consequence of there having been large Creditors, on one or two Occasions, of a Hong Merchant, who suddenly failed, and previously to his Delivery of the Teas on his Contract with them.

Has no other Advantage than that you have mentioned been derived to the trading of the Americans and others from the Existence of the Company?

I think there is one great Advantage, in that the Company's Servants, acting as one Body, and carrying on an immense Trade, are enabled to resist the Exactions and Extortions thrown in the Way of Trade by the Chinese Government, or the Officers under it.

In the event of the Chinese Government, or their Officers, endeavouring to throw greater Difficulties than had hitherto existed in the Way of the regular Trade, do you imagine the whole Trade might be carried on as the Opium Trade now is, by Smuggling?

I can hardly imagine such a State of Things.

Do you think it is in the Power of the Chinese Government to prevent the smuggling of Opium?

I think it is out of their Power to prevent the smuggling of Opium; it is so much an Article of Necessity by those who have contracted a Habit of using it.

Is it not as necessary to the Interests of the Chinese that they should sell their Teas, as that they should purchase Opium?

I think it more necessary to their Interests.

Would there not, therefore, under those Circumstances, be a strong Combination among the People of China in favour of the Continuance of the Trade, whatever the Disposition of the Officers of Government?

I cannot conceive that the Government could put an End to the Trade altogether; it would find a Vent in some Way.

Can any English Vessels carry on the Trade between South America and Canton?

I believe none at the present Time.

Can they do it by Law?

I believe they can come from South America to China; I do not think the Company's Charter prohibits that.

Do American Ships frequently arrive at Canton from South America?

Occasionally.

What are their Importations?

Bullion, and occasionally Copper.

Has the Import of Metals into China been profitable?

Very profitable of late in Silver uncoined.

Do you allude to Gold or Silver?

Silver; which comes in large Masses from South America, and is sold at a considerable Premium in China at present.

H. Magniac, Esq.

Has the Importation of other Metals, such as Tin and Iron and Lead, been equally profitable?

Those Metals were principally, if not altogether, imported by the Company. I am not aware of the State of their Profits.

Your House were principally concerned in dealing in Opium?

Almost entirely as Matter of Business; and in Goods, as far as Remittances were required from China only.

You considered that the most profitable Mode of conducting that Trade? By far.

Were the Exactions on the Part of the Mandarin at the Port of Amoy, intended to discourage the Trade on his Part, or merely from a Desire to get more?

The Trade there was entirely disallowed by the Government; and I conceive that had the Ships Cargo on the Occasion alluded to been sold and landed, it would have been illegal on the Part of the Mandarin who allowed it. The Consequence was, he requested a large Present for himself, but he was so exorbitant that the Adventure would not afford it, and the Ship left in consequence. She sailed at last with the Boats following her, and entreating her to return.

If the Amount of the Exaction had the Effect of preventing the Trade altogether, would it not become his Interest to moderate his Demands, for the Purpose of at least securing some Share to himself?

One should think so; and the Negotiation went on for some Time, and the Captain waited 'till there appeared to be no Prospect of Success. The Chinchoo Man in Canton, who ultimately paid Part of the Loss, was quite satisfied with the Return of the Ship.

Was that the first Time that any Foreign Ship had ever made any Attempt?

I believe it was the only Time that any English Ship had made the Attempt with Cotton. The Spaniards formerly traded there.

Have you any Reason to suppose that, if the Mandarin's Exactions had not driven them away, the People were disposed to purchase?

It is at a great Distance of Time, but I believe they were so. They are always disposed to trade.

What was expected to be the Return?

Sycee Silver; which means Silver in Ingots or Bars.

Was any Difficulty anticipated in obtaining the Silver?

None at that Time, Silver being then more plentiful in China than it is now; and although containing only about Two per Cent. Alloy, I have known it at Five per Cent. Discount.

Is the Export of Silver allowed?

At that Time it was allowed to a certain Extent; now it is disallowed entirely.

Notwithstanding that, Sycee Silver is regularly exported?

Yes; much on the same Principle that Opium is imported.

Are the Regulations of the Government, calculated to prevent Trade with Foreigners, habitually set at nought?

Decidedly so; which makes me suppose that, in the Case of a total Stoppage of the Trade, it would find a Vent still.

If Permission were given by the Laws of this Country to carry on the Trade on the Coast of China, do you conceive it could be profitably carried on?

I conceive it would be impossible to carry it on legally.

From what Circumstances?

The Demands of the Mandarins would be so great and so uncertain, that they could not go there with any Advantage. The Government prohibit trading

trading in any Ports except Canton. They have been more strict of late than formerly. *H. Magniac, Esq.*

If the Mandarins thought they could get something by it, would they not be disposed to relax their Demands rather than lose the Trade?

It might answer in regard to one Ship, but in case of its going to any Extent it would, I conceive, be known at Pekin, and the Mandarin would be punished. The Opium has been a Trial of that, and though it has been sold on the Coast, yet it is not to any great Extent.

Is there any Law in China which would prohibit a Chinese Junk, carrying on that sort of Coasting Trade on British Account, starting from Canton?

There is no Law that I am aware of there to prevent a Chinese Junk carrying it on, but one would not like to trust the Chinese to do that on British Account.

Is there any Port of China between Pekin and Canton now, at which there is a considerable domestic Trade carried on by the Chinese?

I believe there are several; there are one or two Places in Fokien and Kiangnan; those are the Two principal Tea Countries; and Foreign Trade is carried on to those Provinces to a considerable Extent.

To what Countries do the Chinese carry on Trade from those Ports?

To Cochin China, to Siam, to the Straits, to Singapore, to the Sooloo Islands, &c.

Are the Chinese inhabiting the Eastern Islands Purchasers of British Manufactures, for the Purpose of importing into China?

I am not sufficiently acquainted with their Habits to say.

From what Ports do Ships sail from China to Japan?

From several, I believe; but I am not very well informed with regard to that Trade now.

In your Opinion, would the Quality of Teas be deteriorated if the Trade were opened, and a greater Quantity exported?

I think that would be the Effect; I think so, from the Company, who contract upon a Scale of Prices applicable to the Quality of the Black Teas deliverable in Canton, not succeeding in getting as much as they could wish of the better Qualities, even at the higher Prices, which they endeavour to do by every Means in their Power; but I believe it is more profitable to the Chinese to produce middling Teas at a middling Price than Teas of the finer Qualities at an increased Rate.

Do you think there would be any Demand in this Country for that Tea of inferior Quality?

I think there is at present a very great Demand, but I think the finest Qualities of Black Teas would almost disappear.

As far as regards that Part of the Transaction, you conceive that would be increased?

I have no doubt it would be increased. Opening the Trade must cause an Increase; the Price here would be so much lower.

Do you look to the Exports of Teas from China, if there were an open Trade, being made with a View to Profit, or only as a Return for the outward Cargo?

I think, after the Trade became settled, that the Export of Teas would become the principal Means of Remittance.

That they would be reduced in this Country as low as they can be?

Yes; that I think must be the Effect.

Do you apprehend, that under those Circumstances the Export of British Manufactures would be greatly increased?

I have no doubt the Exports of British Articles would be very considerably increased by an open Trade in Tea.

H. Magniac, Esq.

Will you state the particular Articles of Manufacture which you think would find the best Market?

I should think that under such Circumstances Woollens, Camlets, and Cotton Piece Goods would gradually and eventually find their Way into China in considerable Quantities.

Do you think Cotton Yarn would also be exported?

Yes; it is so, even under present Circumstances.

Do you think that Effect would be produced by a Reduction of Price, in consequence of Competition?

That would be one Effect; another would be, that if Persons engaged in that Trade were permitted to export Teas, they might send them as a Means of Remittance, the Bar to Trade at present being a Want of Returns; and the Profit would probably be looked for on the Exports to China.

Is there any Indisposition on the Part of the Chinese to use Articles of Hardware, Knives and Forks, and so on, from Europe?

They use no Knives and Forks; but their own Hardware is much cheaper. I believe there is more regard to Cheapness in the Chinese than to Quality. Their own are inferior to ours; but the Price of ours is an Obstacle, I conceive.

Can you state the Price of any particular Article in Hardware at Canton; Table Knives, for instance?

They do not use Table Knives. I have heard that a Razor for shaving the Head can be bought for a few Candareens. Three Cash and Three Quarters make a Farthing, and Ten Cash One Candareen.

How many Candareens buy a Razor?

A few; but I cannot say how many. Every Time they use them they are obliged to hone them. Under an open Trade, I think that Hardware might be introduced, perhaps, being now made so wonderfully cheap in England; I think that the superior Activity and Enterprise of Individuals over that of a Company pursuing a beaten Track, must open new Channels, which it is impossible almost to foresee.

Have they any Disposition to use ornamental Articles; Birmingham Manufactures in Brass, Imitations of Gold, and so on?

No, I do not think they have.

Has there been an increased Demand for Woollens in China of late Years?

Since the Price has fallen there has been an increased Importation. The Demand might go to almost any thing if the Price did not prevent.

They would be more generally worn?

Yes; they like them very much; their Mode of wearing a warm Garment is to put Two Cottons together, and to stuff Cotton Wool between, but they would prefer the Woollen; the Cotton is liable to be wetted directly, the Woollens are not so likely.

For what Species of Articles is the Yarn that is exported into China chiefly used?

It is used, I apprehend, for manufacturing Cloths; but I am very little acquainted with that, being since my Departure.

Do not you think that if they were unable to import Yarn, the European manufactured Articles would fetch a better Price than they do now?

The Importation of Yarn at present has gone to so small an Extent, it cannot be supposed to have affected their Manufactures much.

Do you know whether the Americans have often suffered from Exactions on the Part of the Chinese Government?

I am not aware that they have. The Exactions do not fall directly upon Individuals; they come on the Trade generally. The Chinese do not acknowledge us at all; they say, we have nothing to do with you; we allow our People to trade with you, but we know nothing whatever about you; they look to the Merchant who becomes Security.

In

In fact, do you think that the Company, by being a Company, have Advantages over individual Merchants?

H. Magniac, Esq.

I think that, by carrying on their immense Trade, they have an Influence that in case of the Government imposing Impositions on the Merchants and others, they are enabled to check them in their Progress, or to cause them to be done away with; that I have known to occur. Individuals cannot be brought to act as a Body, their Interests are various and opposite, and each acts for himself.

Would not a British Consul supply the Place now occupied by the Company in regard to Authority in controlling the Conduct of Individuals?

I think that a Person unconnected with the Trade cannot have the same Power as Persons connected with the Trade, and having an Authority also.

There are American and Dutch Consuls residing at Canton, are there not?

Yes, there are.

Do you know what Degree of Authority they have over the Trade of their respective Countries?

They have little or no Authority; the American Consul had no Authority, he was a mere Commercial Officer in fact, I believe, until Mr. Wilcox was appointed. The Consul has no Power whatever over them, but is merely a sort of Authority to register their mercantile Proceedings; in fact, that was proved on an Occasion some Years back, when a Sailor belonging to one of their Ships was strangled by the Government; it was then proved that the Consul had no Authority over his Countrymen.

Has he no Police Authority in respect to the Ships of his own Country?

I believe none whatever.

Has the Dutch Consul any?

I am not aware what the Power of the Dutch Consul may be; when I left China it was a new Appointment.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

JOHN CRAWFURD Esquire is called in, and further examined as follows:

J. Crawford, Esq.

Are you acquainted with the Coasting Trade of the Chinese, and can you state the Course of that Trade, and the Amount of Tonnage employed in it?

I have paid a great deal of Attention to the Chinese Trade. I will beg to deliver in a Paper containing an Account of the Native Foreign Trade of China.

The same is delivered in and read, and is as follows:

NATIVE FOREIGN TRADE of CHINA.

The principal Part of the Junk Trade is carried on by the Four contiguous Provinces of Canton, Fokien, Chekiang, and Kiannan. No Foreign Trade is permitted with the Island of Formosa; and I have no means of describing the Extent of the Traffic which may be conducted between China, Corea, and the Serchew Islands. The following are the Countries with which China carries on a Trade in Junks; viz., Japan, the Phillippines, the Sooloo Islands, Celebes, the Moluccas, Borneo, Java, Sumatra, Singapore, Rhio, the East Coast of the Malayan Peninsula, Siam, Cochin China, Cambodia, and Tonquin. The Ports of China at which this Trade are conducted are, Canton, Tchao-tcheou, Nomhong, Hoeit-cheou, Su-heng, Kongmoon, Changhin, and Hainan, in the Province of Canton; Amoy and Chinchin, in the Province of Fokien; Ningpo and Siang-hai, in the Province of Tchekian; and Soutcheon, in the Province of Kiannan. The following may be looked upon as an Approximation to the Number of Junks carrying on Trade with the different Places already enumerated; viz.

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Japan, 10 Junks, Two Voyages	-	-	20 Junks
Phillippine Islands	-	-	13 —
Sooloo Islands	-	-	4 —
Celebes	-	-	2 —
Borneo	-	-	13 —
Java	-	-	7 —
Sumatra	-	-	10 —
Sincapore	-	-	8 —
Rhio	-	-	1 —
East Coast of Malay Peninsula	-	-	6 —
Siam	-	-	89 —
Cochin China	-	-	20 —
Cambodia	-	-	9 —
Tonquin	-	-	20 —
Total			<u>222</u>

This Statement does not include a great Number of small Junks belonging to the Island of Hainan, which carry on Trade with Tonquin, Cochin China, Cambodia, Siam, and Sincapore. Those for Siam amount yearly to about Fifty, and for the Cochin Chinese Dominions to about Forty-three; these alone would bring the total Number of Vessels carrying on a direct Trade between China and Foreign Countries to 307. The Trade with Japan is confined to the Port of Ningpo in Chekiang, and expressly limited to Ten Vessels; but as the Distance from Nangasaki is a Voyage of no more than Four Days, it is performed twice a Year. With the Exception of this Branch of Trade, the Foreign Intercourse of the Two Provinces of Chekian and Kiannan, which are famous for the Production of Raw Silk, Teas, and Nankeens is confined to the Phillippine Islands*, Tonquin, Cochin China, Cambodia, and Siam; and none of this Class of Vessels, that I am aware of, have ever found their Way to the Western Parts of the Indian Archipelago. The Number of these trading with Siam is Twenty-four, all of considerable Size; those trading with the Cochin Chinese Dominions, Sixteen, also of considerable Size; and those trading with the Phillippines Five, making in all, Forty-five; of which the average Burden does not fall short of 17,000 Tons. I am the more particular in describing this Branch of the Chinese Commerce, as we do not ourselves at present partake of it, and as we possess no direct Means of obtaining Information in regard to it. All the Junks carrying on this Trade with Siam are owned in the latter Country, and not in China; and I am not sure how far it may not also be so in the other Cases. I do not doubt but that a similar Commerce will, in the event of a Free Trade, extend to Sincapore, and that through this Channel may eventually be obtained the Green Teas of Kiannan, and the Raw Silks of Chekian.

Besides the Junks now described, there is another numerous Class, which may be denominated the Colonial Shipping of the Chinese. Wherever the Chinese are settled in any Numbers, Junks of this Description are to be found, such as in Java, Sumatra, the Straits of Malacca, &c.; but the largest Commerce of this Description is conducted from the Cochin Chinese Dominions, but especially from Siam, where the Number was estimated to me at 200. Several Junks of this Description from the latter Country come annually to Sincapore, of which the Burthen is not less than from 300 to 400 Tons.

The Junks which trade between China and the adjacent Countries are some of them owned and built in China, but a considerable Number also in the latter Countries, particularly in Siam and Cochin China. Of those carrying on the Siamese Trade, indeed, no less than Eighty-one, out of the Eighty-nine, of considerable Size, were represented to me as being built and owned in Siam. The small Junks, however, carrying on the Trade of Hainan, are all built and owned in China.

The Junks, whether Colonial or trading direct with China, vary in Burden from 2,000 Peculs to 15,000, or carry of dead Weight from about 120 to 900 Tons. Of those of the last Size I have only seen Three or Four, and these were at Siam, and the same which were commonly employed in carrying a Mission and Tribute yearly from Siam to Canton. Of the whole of the large Class of Junks, I should think the average Burthen will not be overrated at 300 Tons each, which would make the total Tonnage employed in the Native Foreign Trade of China between 60,000 and 70,000 Tons, exclusive of the small Junks of Hainan, which, estimated at 150 Tons each, would make in all about 80,000 Tons.

The Junks built in China are usually constructed of Fir and other inferior Woods. When they arrive in Cambodia, Siam, and the Malayan Islands, they commonly furnish themselves with Masts, Rudders, and Wooden Anchors, of the superior Timber of these Countries. The Junks built in Siam are a superior Class of Vessels, the Planks and upper

* The Provinces once conducted a Trade among the Sooloo Islands and Borneo Proper, but owing to the Anarchy which has of late Years prevailed in these Countries, it seems to be at present abandoned.

Works being invariably of Teak. The Cost of Ship-building is highest at the Port of Amoy in Fokien, and lowest in Siam. At these Places, and at Chang-hin, in Canton, the Cost of a Junk of 8,000 Peculs, or 476 Tons Burthen, was stated to me by several Commanders of Junks, to be as follow :

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At Siam	-	-	-	8 7,400
Chang-hin	-	-	-	16,000
Amoy	-	-	-	21,000

A Junk of the Size just named has commonly a Crew of 90 Hands, consisting of the following Officers besides the Crew; a Commander, a Pilot, an Accountant, a Captain of the Helm, a Captain of the Anchor, and a Captain of the Hold. The Commander receives no Pay, but has the Advantage of the Cabin Accommodation for Passengers, reckoned, on the Voyage between Canton and Sincapore, worth 150 Spanish Dollars. He is also the Agent of the Owners, and receives a Commission commonly of Ten per Cent. on the Profits of such Share of the Adventure, generally a considerable one, in which they are concerned. The Pilot receives for the Voyage 200 Dollars of Wages, and Fifty Peculs of Freight out and home. The Helmsman has Fifteen Peculs of Freight, and no Wages. The Captains of the Anchor and the Hold have Nine Peculs of Freight each; and the Seamen Seven Peculs each. None of these have any Wages. The Officers and Seamen of the Colonial Junks are differently rewarded. In a Siamese Junk, for Example, trading between the Siamese Capital and Sincapore, of 6,000 Peculs Burthen, the Commander and Pilot had each 100 Dollars for the Voyage, with Twelve Peculs of Freight apiece. The Accountant and Helmsman had Half of this Allowance; and each Seaman had Thirteen Dollars, with Five Peculs of Freight.

The Construction and Outfit of a Chinese Junk are too well known to require Description. They are clumsy and awkward in the extreme. The Chinese are quite unacquainted with Navigation, saving the Knowledge of the Compass; notwithstanding this, as their Pilots are expert, as their Voyages are short, and as they hardly ever sail except at the Height of the Monsoons, when a fair and steady Seven or Eight Knot Breeze carries them directly from Port to Port, the Sea Risk is very small. During Thirteen Years Acquaintance with this Branch of Trade, I can recollect hearing of but Four Shipwrecks; and in all these Instances the Crews were saved.

The Construction and Rigging of a Chinese Junk may be looked upon as her proper Registry, and they are a very effectual one; for the least Deviation from them would subject her at once to Foreign Charges and Foreign Duties, and to all Kinds of Suspicion. The Colonial Junks, which are of a more commodious Form and Outfit, would, if visiting China, be subjected to the same Duties as Foreign Vessels. Junks built in Siam, or any adjacent Country, if constructed and fitted out after the customary Model, are admitted to trade to China upon the same Terms as those built and owned in the Country. If any Part of the Crew consist of Siamese, Cochin Chinese, or other Foreigners, the latter are admitted only at the Port of Canton; and if found in any other Port of China, would be seized and taken up by the Police, exactly in the same Manner as if they were Europeans. The Native Trade of China conducted with Foreign Countries, is not a clandestine Commerce, unacknowledged by the Chinese Laws, but has in every Case at least the express Sanction of the Viceroy or Governor of the Province, who, on Petition, decides the Number of Junks that shall be allowed to engage in it, and even enumerates the Articles which it shall be legal to export and import; at every Port also where such a Foreign Trade is sanctioned, there is a Hong or Body of Security Merchants, as at Canton; a Fact which shews clearly enough that this Institution is Parcel of the Laws or Customs of China, and not a peculiar Restraint imposed upon the Intercourse with Europeans.

The Chinese Junks properly constructed pay no Measurement Duty, and no Kumsha, or Present; Duties, however, are paid upon Goods exported and imported, which seem however to differ at the different Provinces. They are highest at Amoy, and lowest in the Island of Hainan. The Chinese Traders of Siam informed me that they carried on the fairest and easiest Trade, subject to the fewest Restrictions, in the Ports of Ningpo and Sianghai, in Chekian, and Souchon in Kiannan. Great Dexterity seems everywhere to be exercised by the Chinese in evading the Duties. One Practice, which is very often followed, will afford a good Example of this. The Coasting Trade of China is nearly free from all Duties and other Imposts. The Merchant takes Advantage of this, and intending in reality to proceed to Siam or Cochin China, for Example, clears a Junk out for the Island of Hainan, and thus avoids the Payment of Duties. When she returns, she will lie Four or Five Days off and on at the Mouth of the Port, until a regular Bargain be made with the Custom-house Officers for the Reduction of Duties. The Threat held out in such Cases is to proceed to another Port, and thus deprive the public Officers of their customary Perquisites. I was assured of the frequency of this Practice by Chinese Merchants of Cochin China, as well as by several Commanders of Junks at Sincapore. From the last-named Persons I had another Fact of some Consequence, as connected with the Chinese Trade; viz., that a good many of the Junks carrying on Trade with Foreign Ports to the Westward of China often proceeded on Voyages to the Northward in the same Season. In this Manner they stated that about Twenty considerable Junks, besides a great many small ones, proceeded annually from Canton to Souchon, one of the Capitals of Kiannan, and in

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Wealth and Commerce the Rival of Canton, where they sold about 200 Chests of Opium at an Advance of Fifty per Cent. beyond the Canton Prices. Another Place where the Canton Junks, to the Number of Five or Six, repair annually, is Chinchin, in the Province of Shanton, within the Gulph of Pechely or Yellow Sea, and as far North as the Thirty-seventh Degree of Latitude.

What appears to be the total Amount of Tonnage engaged in the Foreign Trade of China, by the Account you have read?

Two hundred and twenty-two Junks is the Number given there.

What is the Amount of Tonnage?

I am not able to make an accurate Estimate of that. The Junks are so very various in their Sizes, that it is extremely difficult to make an Estimate; they are from a Hundred and fifty to a Thousand Tons. I should take them at Sixty or Seventy thousand Tons, but that is a mere Estimate.

In that Estimate, do you include the Vessels employed in carrying on the Coasting Trade of China?

No; I have no Knowledge of that Branch of Trade, except in so far as those Vessels carrying on the Foreign Trade of China may be occasionally employed in the Coasting Trade, and some of them I know are.

Have you ever known the Chinese purchase British Manufactures in any of the Eastern Islands, for Sale in China?

To a very small Extent, occasionally.

What Articles of Manufacture have they purchased?

Generally speaking they do not purchase Articles of Manufacture. The rough Produce of the Eastern Islands, commonly speaking, is what they purchase. When they do purchase manufactured Articles, they are commonly British.

What particular Articles have they purchased?

Broad Cloths, White Cottons, and Iron. Those may be looked upon as the chief Articles; but I beg again to repeat, that the Junk Traders do not purchase British Manufactures to any Extent. The Chinese Junks that trade with Cochin China and Siam do purchase British Manufactures at Singapore to a great Extent, but not those trading directly from Singapore and the other Eastern Islands to China.

If the Import of British Manufactures into China be very profitable, the Restriction only being the Difficulty of obtaining Returns, can you assign any Reason why the Chinese should not import the British Manufactures which they can obtain from the Eastern Islands?

I imagine the principal Difficulty is our not taking from the Chinese that which they have to give, the staple Export of China—Tea.

The Chinese carries whatever he has to give, Tea and every other Article, to the Eastern Islands, and carries back his Return Cargo; can you assign any Reason for his not selecting British Manufactures as a Part of that Return Cargo?

I suppose that the other Articles he is able to get there are found to be more profitable.

What are those Articles; are they the Produce of the Eastern Islands generally?

Barks, Dye Woods, esculent Birds Nests or Swallows Nests, Rattans, Pepper, Tin, Betel Nut or Areca, and a very considerable Supply, lately, of Indian Opium—a very large and increasing Supply indeed of that Article.

If it is more profitable to the Chinese to import those Articles into China, would it not be more profitable for the European Merchant to import those into China in preference to British Manufactures?

They do import such of these Articles as Europeans have a local practical Knowledge of into China. There are some, however, of which they can form no Judgment, and which therefore they cannot safely trade in.

Is

Is there no Article imported into China which produces less Profit than British Manufacture? *J. Crawford, Esq.*

I cannot give any satisfactory Information to the Committee upon that Point.

When you talk of importing into China, from what Place do you understand the Articles to be imported?

My Reference is at the present Moment almost entirely to the Island of Singapore; there are many other Branches of the Trade of the Chinese with which I am familiar, but my Evidence at the present Moment is chiefly with reference to the Island of Singapore, where I resided Three or Four Years as Principal of the Settlement, under the Direction of the Governor General of India.

Are there not Articles in which a Consignment directly from England to China might be profitable, the Consignment of which through Singapore may not?

That is sufficiently proved by the extensive Importations into China from England by the Americans; for the Americans have the Power to carry to China those Articles of Straits Produce, as they are often called, to China as well as we; but they do not carry them to any considerable Extent.

Have not the Exports of British Manufactures by the Americans decreased of late?

No; I believe they have largely increased.

Has not the greater Portion of the American Trade been carried on in Dollars of late?

A great Proportion has always been carried on in Dollars, but a considerable Proportion of late Years in Bills drawn on America and this Country. It has been carried on also of late in a good Measure also through British Manufactured Goods exported, sometimes from the United States, but more frequently from this Country.

Does the Country Trade of India compete with the Chinese in the Foreign Trade of China of which you have spoken; is there much Trade in Country Ships between China and Cochin China?

There is no Trade whatever in Country Ships between China and Cochin China. In some of the Staple Articles of Export from the British Possessions in India and the Malay Islands to China, the Country Trade of India competes largely with the Native Trade of China, as for Example, in the Article of Indian Opium, in the Article of Turkey Opium, in the Article of Pepper, of Areca Nut, and of Tin. It does not compete with the Chinese Trade in some other Articles, as for Instance, in Barks and Dye Woods, in esculent Birds Nests, and other peculiar Articles of that Nature. The British Traders do not, as I have said before, venture to trade in these Articles.

Are they too unimportant?

Birds Nests form a large Article.

Can you state why no British Manufactures are sent to China by means of the Country Trade?

There are considerable Quantities sent.

Will you state the Articles?

They are enumerated in Page 44. of the Papers relating to the Trade of India and China, printed by the House of Commons the 4th of June 1829.

Will you state, from that Account, the Articles of European Manufacture? Iron, Lead, Steel.

Tin is of Eastern Produce?

Yes.

State the Value of the Iron imported into Canton the last Year?

10,470 Dollars.

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State the Value of the Lead imported ?

The Lead is 12,504 Dollars.

There appears to be no Steel, is there ?
None in that Year.

Is there any Cutlery ?

There is none in the last Two Years.

Will you state the Value of the Broad Cloth imported by the Country Trade ?

34,467 Spanish Dollars.

Of Long Ells ?

25,575 Dollars.

Do you apprehend that the Cotton Goods sent out are the Goods of English or of Indian Manufacture ?

The Indian are distinguished in the Account ; those below them are clearly British.

Will you state their Amount ?

66,487 Dollars.

There appear to have been no Handkerchiefs since the Year 1821-22 ?
No.

Are there any other Articles of British Manufacture ?

There are Articles, not of British Manufacture, but Articles apparently exported from this Country to India, and re-exported again.

What are those ?

I should conceive Quicksilver to be one of those, and Skins ; perhaps Prussian Blue and Smalts, &c. ; but those are all unimportant Articles. In fact, it is a Trade which cannot, from the circuitous Course in which it must be pursued, be carried to any great Extent ; and I have seen Quotations from the Canton Price Current, stating that Exports of British Manufactures have been made from Canton to the Continent of India, such as Metals, from the Want of any other Mode of Remittance.

Has not the Price of British Manufactures in India been occasionally lower than the original Price in England ?

I should think that, if such a Thing ever happened, it must have been a very rare Event indeed. To be able, according to the Inquiries I have made in this Country, to ascertain the real Prime Cost of an Article, is a Matter of extreme Difficulty. An Article in India may have sold for less than it cost the Importer ; but the Idea of its being sold for a less Amount than it cost in this Country, is a thing highly improbable. If it took place once, it could hardly take place a Second Time ; or at least it could only take place for a very short Period of Time, for no Man would persevere in a Trade that would not pay Prime Cost.

What additional Charge, do you apprehend, would be placed on Goods sent out from England to China in consequence of its being necessary to tranship them at Singapore, supposing that to be necessary ?

I should think that would not be very considerable.

If it is not considerable, has not the British Merchant now the Means of sending out British Manufactures to China ?

If he had the Means of making a Return, he would ; if the British Merchant could purchase a Supply of the staple Article of China as a Remittance, he would have ample Means of supplying China with British Manufactures.

Has not the Country Trade been principally in the Hands of British Merchants ?

The greater Part of it, I should suppose, has ; but there are many others besides British Merchants, in India, concerned in that Trade. The Parsees of Bombay

Bombay are personally engaged in it ; and the Capital of Hindoo Merchants at Calcutta is very largely engaged in it. *J. Crawford, Esq.*

As regards British Merchants, how do you account for the great Increase of it in their Hands, if the Difficulty be so great in obtaining Returns from China ?

There is a free Exchange in the Production of those Two Countries ; they are placed under very different Circumstances from those affecting the Trade between China and Great Britain.

Is it necessary, for the successful Conduct of Trade, that it should be direct between Two Ports, between England and Canton for Instance.

I conceive it absolutely necessary, if we expect the Chinese to take our Goods, that we should be ready to take theirs in return.

Is not that Trade often the most profitable which is the most circuitous ?

I should think there is no Distinction of that sort ; that all Trades may be equally profitable, whether circuitous or otherwise.

If a British Merchant exported, as he now may, from Sincapore, British Manufactures to China, and sent a Return Cargo from China to India, which Cargo might then come to England ; might not that Trade be as profitable as a direct Trade between India and China ?

The Trade likely to be most profitably carried on between Two Nations must be that subject to the least Restriction ; that which can be carried on with the fewest Limitations. If a Trade be forced into a circuitous Channel, it must be less advantageous than that which can be carried on directly.

Have the goodness to state whether that Trade, though circuitous, may not be still a profitable Trade ?

It may be a profitable Trade ; but it may be less profitable than a direct Trade would be.

Then can you assign any Reason why it is not carried on at all ; why British Manufactures are not sent to China through Sincapore, and Returns made through India ?

I have already explained that. If this Country does not take from the Chinese the Articles which the Chinese have to give, we have no right to expect that the Chinese should receive our Goods.

What do the Chinese give in return for all the Opium and all the Cotton sent to China ?

They give in return various Articles ; but I believe chiefly the Tea that is furnished to this Country.

What are the Returns made direct from China to India ?

There are a good Number of Articles sent from China to India. Just now the principal Article of Export from China to India is Bullion.

You have stated what are the Returns you have made from China as the Proceeds of the Cargoes sent from India to Canton ; might not Returns be equally made in the same Articles for the Proceeds of British Manufactures sent to China through Sincapore ?

India can take only a limited Portion of the Exports of China ; the principal Import, I have shewn, is Bullion.

Is there any Difficulty in increasing the Export of Bullion ?

That depends upon the State of the Trade in the Two Countries.

Is not Bullion always procurable in China in exchange for any Articles which may be exported to that Country ?

It is always procurable, but it depends on Circumstances whether it will make a profitable Return to the Exporter. I have mentioned a Case where it was not, and where the Exporter was compelled to have British Manufactures in return as an Export to India. India requires only a limited Supply of Bullion, like every other Country.

Can

J. Crawford, Esq.

Can you state why the Americans should have conducted Four Fifths of their Trade generally in Dollars, why they should not have exported Merchandize to a larger Amount?

I think that the Americans have not the Means of exporting Manufactures to a large Amount. They have no Manufactures of their own which they could furnish to the Chinese. The Quantity of British Manufactures exported by them is yearly increasing.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Tuesday next, One o'Clock.

Die Martis, 22^o Junii 1830.

The LORD PRESIDENT in the Chair.

Mr. WILLIAM BROWN is called in, and examined as follows:

You are a Merchant or Agent trading to China?

I am a Merchant and Agent trading to China and America.

Did you ever export to China any Goods on your own Account?

No; I have merely acted as Agent.

Have you exported Goods on your Account to other Parts of the World?

No, I cannot say that we have; we are merely Agents. If we have done so, it is to a very limited Extent indeed.

Can you state the Extent of your Shipments in successive Years to China?

Not from Recollection. I have here a Statement which I beg to deliver in.

The Witness delivers in the same, and it is read, and is as follows:

A STATEMENT of MERCHANDIZE shipped by W. & J. BROWN & Co. of Liverpool to Canton, from November 1821 to July 1829.

					£	s.	d.
November	1821	Per Ship	Columbian	- 883 Packages, Value	66,751	19	4
February	1822	—	Isabella	- 874	64,256	18	3
March	- 1823	—	Tobacco Plant	510	50,834	12	8
August	- 1823	—	Columbian	- 1,079	76,016	14	2
July	- 1824	—	Isabella	- 677	53,277	2	5
February	1825	—	New Jersey	- 831	52,422	10	7
July	- 1825	—	Phoenix	- 688	54,217	2	1
November	1825	—	Juniata	- 684	47,505	19	3
September	1826	—	Isabella	- 552	48,471	7	11
May	- 1827	—	Woodrop Simms	664	59,808	2	9
October	- 1827	—	Globe	- 943	65,966	19	4
May	- 1828	—	Isabella	- 816	60,999	16	9
April	- 1829	—	Tobacco Plant	666	55,909	4	3
July	- 1829	—	Isabella	- 626	48,818	15	6
Total Amount - £					805,257	5	3

N.B.—The above includes some Specie, the Amount of which cannot be given with Accuracy, but it does not, probably, in the whole exceed 10,000*l.* With this Exception, the Cargoes consisted of British manufactured Goods, and the Amount stated is the Cost and Charges after deducting Debentures. In the Evidence given before the Committee of the House of Commons, the Isabella's Cargo in May 1828 was, by Mistake, omitted.

Liverpool, 18th June 1830.

(Signed) WM. BROWN.

Do the Amounts there stated vary from the Declared Values of the Shipments in the Custom House Books?

I rather think they do.

Mr. W. Brown.

To what Extent ?

I am not able to state exactly ; probably One Third less.

Where no Duty is paid on the Export of Goods, do those engaged in the Export of them, in declaring the Value of them, adhere as nearly as they can to the real Value ?

We are very careless about it. When we have no Documents to fix it, we assume a Value, where there is no Export Duty.

Do you usually assume a Value higher or lower than the real Value ?

We frequently cannot tell what the Value is ; we say so much per Package ; sometimes higher, sometimes lower ; but I believe with respect to those Goods the Value assumed in all Cases was lower than the real Value.

Do you know whether that was done for any Purpose ?

The Gentleman, who was a Partner in the House owning this Property, was willing to keep the Business as much to himself as he could, and I do not believe he returns to us the real Value or the real Prices ; but from the Prices he transmitted to us our Entries were made at the Custom House.

Then was your Duty confined to entering the Goods ?

Entering them and paying for them.

What Sum did you receive ?

Two Shillings and Sixpence a Package for shipping, and One per Cent. for Commission.

How did you estimate your Commission, if you were not acquainted with the Value ?

By Bills drawn upon us for the Purchase.

Then, though you do not know the Value of each Article, you know the Value of the total Shipment for each Year ?

Yes ; the Shipment would take place at Three or Four different Entries.

For what Ports do the Vessels clear out in which you shipped those Goods ?

Generally for Batavia. I am not sure whether One did not clear out for Canton.

Was that for the Purpose of concealing the Nature of the Traffic ?

It was.

Have you any Means of ascertaining whether those Adventures were profitable ?

The first few Years they were profitable, and the last Four Years they were unprofitable ; they are beginning again to be profitable.

On what Authority do you state that ?

There are Three Branches of my Establishment in the United States ; through One of them, in Philadelphia, the Arrangements for those Cargoes were made, and Credits lodged by John A. Brown and Company with William and James Brown and Company at Liverpool, for the Purchase of those Cargoes. We are desired to hold such a Sum at the Disposal of the Gentleman who comes to make the Purchases.

Have you any Means of ascertaining the Out-turn of that Adventure ?

Only from Report. I do not see the Returns ; but I know it from my Partner, who is acquainted with it. I state this from the Substance of my Partner's Correspondence.

Do you know what Circumstance at any Period diminished the Profit on those Exports ?

About Four Years ago, when the Trade became less profitable than it had been previously (I think that arose from more Causes than One), about that Period, the East India Company were beginning to send Teas direct from Canton to British America ; and I apprehend that prevented those imported by the Americans being sent in there ; and about the same Period the European Powers threw more Difficulty in the Way of the direct Import of Teas from

from America to Europe, and that also abridged the Markets of Europe for the Consumption of Tea; and the Trade also, I apprehend, was injured by the Americans being too enterprising; still hoping the Business would improve, they continued to trade, probably on a fictitious Capital in part, arising from bonding for the Duties at long Periods.

The total Import of Tea into the British Provinces in North America by the East India Company not amounting to more in Value than £100,000 a Year, that Circumstance alone would not probably have produced much Effect on the American Trade?

No, I do not think that that Circumstance would alone, but in conjunction with the others it had this Effect.

As far as new Duties imposed on the Import of Teas to the Continent of Europe might affect the American Trade, they would likewise, if the Trade were open, affect the Trade of British Merchants to the Continent in Tea?

Of course they would.

Is that over-trading at an end, in your Opinion?

I think it is in some measure; a Number of those who were engaged in it at that Time have been unfortunate in their Affairs, and there is probably less Competition.

Have you any Knowledge of the Expence of navigating American and British Ships?

Not of British Ships; but I know something of American Ships.

Have you any Means of comparing the Two?

No, I have not.

From your Knowledge as a Merchant and Agent, are you enabled to form an Opinion whether, in the event of the China Trade being opened to British Subjects, they would be enabled to carry on that Trade with more Advantage than the Americans carry it on now?

I apprehend Mercantile Capital is much more plentiful in this Country than in America; the Interest of Money is less, and I think the Expence of Navigation is as little; I think they would be able to carry it on with equal Advantage, probably.

Are there not many American Merchants engaged in that Trade possessed of very large Capital?

I do not think there are many possessed of very large Capital.

Do you think those who have large Capital, Mr. Cushion and others, have traded to more Advantage than the Persons possessed of small Capital?

No doubt they have.

To what Circumstances do you attribute the greater Profits they may have obtained in the Trade?

I think they have been engaged in a different Trade from most of the other American Merchants; and they have not been obliged, I believe, to borrow Money on Respondentia, which is the usual Method of raising Money by those who have not sufficient Capital themselves to carry on the China Trade.

Will you explain what Respondentia is?

It is a Loan made by a monied House to a House wishing to borrow, for which they receive a certain Interest, say Eleven or Twelve per Cent., for the Voyage, the Parties lending the Money having the Goods hypothecated to them, and paying the Insurance; the Sum they receive is without reference to whether the Voyage is long or short.

In what Way does the Possession of a larger Capital afford peculiar Advantages in the carrying on of the China Trade?

It enables the Party possessing that Capital to choose his own Markets in Europe with more Convenience; it enables him probably to purchase large Quantities of Opium, and to let it remain for a Market in China, which those possessed of smaller Capitals, I apprehend, have not been much in the habit

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of; they have been more in the Trade from the United States direct to England, and from thence to China, and then back.

Do you apprehend the larger the Capital the greater the Advantage?
Provided it can be used.

Should you think that the East India Company, having so very great a Capital engaged in that Trade, could carry it on with more Advantage than Private Merchants?

I do not think that any Company can carry on Trade with so much Advantage as a Private Merchant, provided that Individual has sufficient Capital for his Operations.

Still less could you expect that Degree of Care which is shewn by a private Individual in the Management of his Concerns, from Persons managing the great Capital of a Company, who, whatever may be the Out-turn of that Adventure, would neither receive more nor less in the Shape of Interest and Revenue?

That is precisely the View I take of it.

Are you aware whether the Woollens shipped on American Bottoms for China have been in Quality superior or inferior to those shipped by the Company?

I have Reason to believe they are quite as good as those shipped by the Company, and bought with as much Care.

Are they of the same sorts?
Pretty much the same.

Can you state whether they are obtained by the Private Merchants at a lower Cost than that at which the Company obtain their Goods?

I think they are full as low as those bought by the Company, inasmuch as the Private Traders Payments are more convenient to the Seller, and that they are not subject to the Delay of Inspection which Goods purchased by the East India Company are.

Are the Woollens shipped all of one Quality, or nearly so?
No; they vary very much in Quality.

Do you know on which Quality the highest Profit is obtained, whether the highest or the lowest?

No, I do not.

Have any new Articles been exported of late Years?

I think not to any great Extent. I understand they are trying Cotton Yarns in China, but I am not aware of any thing to any Extent having been sent of late but what the Chinese have been in the habit of receiving.

You have not shipped any new Articles?
Not that I am aware of.

For what Length of Time have you been employed in the Shipment of British Goods to China?

Since 1821.

Have you been engaged in sending to British India?
Occasionally.

In what Year was your first Shipment to China?
In 1821.

What was the Amount?

Sixty-six thousand seven hundred and fifty-one Pounds; in February 1822, I perceive there is another Cargo; in 1823, Two Cargoes; in 1824, One Cargo; and 1825, Three Cargoes.

The Shipments gradually increased to 1825?
Yes.

What was the whole Amount of Shipment in 1825?
About £150,000.

Did

Did the Shipments fall off subsequently ?

In 1826 there was but One Cargo sent, amounting to £47,000 ; in 1827 there were Two Cargoes, amounting to about £120,000 ; in 1828, One Cargo, amounting to £60,000 ; and in 1829, Two Cargoes, amounting to about £100,000.

Have you any Orders for Shipment in the present Year ?

We have.

To what Extent, up to the present Time ?

About £110,000.

So that the Shipments are gradually increasing again since 1828 ?

Yes.

Can you state with more Precision your Reasons for believing that the last Shipment had been profitable, besides the increased Orders you have lately received ?

I think it is evident that they are more profitable, from my House having lodged Credit for those new Operations ; and they have also stated to me that they have been more profitable, and that they feel more Confidence in going on with the Trade.

In what Manner do your Principals purchase Goods for the China Market ?

One of the Partners of the House has always attended and bought the Goods in England, and for the Payment of which he passes Bills upon us.

Do you know under what Mark they are disposed of in China ?

For some Time past, probably from the first, he has been in the habit of putting his Name upon them, in order to give them Credit and Currency with the Chinese.

Is there any Imitation of the Company's Mark ?

Not at all. I think he puts Samuel T. Jones upon them.

Have you Information you can depend upon, that that Mark is considered sufficient, without any Imitation of the Company's Mark in addition ?

From every Information I have I believe that Mark obtains them as much Credit with the Chinese as the Company's Mark. His Object was to establish the Reputation of the House, by packing none but fair Goods under that Mark.

Do you know in what Manner the East India Company's Goods are purchased for the China Market ?

I have understood they are all subject to Inspection, which creates some Delay in the Payment, which does not arise with the Private Trade, and which enables the Private Trade to make themselves as desirable Customers to the Sellers of the Goods as the Company.

Have you had any Means of comparing the Manner in which Mr. Jones purchases his Goods with that in which the East India Company purchase their Goods ?

The principal Information I have upon that Subject is from Mr. Jones himself, and One or Two of the Manufacturers of whom he has bought. He has an Opportunity of seeing the Manner in which the Goods are got up for the Company ; and I have understood that his Goods are fully as well or better bought.

When you speak of the general Result of the Shipments having been unprofitable, can you state at what Period of the Voyage they became unprofitable ?

The Goods out have generally sold well, and for fair Profits ; but the Return Cargoes have been unprofitable.

If the Trade had been open, and those Speculations had been conducted by British Merchants, who might have brought back a Return Cargo to England, do you conceive that such Speculations would have been more profitable ?

I think they would not have been more profitable than the Result of the American Speculations. I think they must have sustained a Loss by the Import

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of Teas. I cannot speak of the Competition they would have to meet with ; but if a British Merchant has to go to China and bring Teas to Europe, at present he would probably sustain a Loss.

Supposing they were to go to China and bring a Return Cargo to England, do you think the Return Voyages would be more or less profitable ?

It depends on the Number of the Return Cargoes. If there were but few Cargoes brought, it would be profitable ; if there was over-trading, that would be, as it has been in other Instances of many new Trades, unprofitable ; Buenos Ayres, for instance—the first of the Trade was most ruinous, though it has now become a healthy Trade.

Does that Observation apply to Trade generally ?

Yes. It would be profitable so long as over-trading did not take place.

Do you know whether the Dutch supply much of the Tea that is now consumed in Europe ?

I should think they do, a good deal.

Do not you think that the Want of a Return Cargo, which could be disposed of in the English Market, has been one of the great Causes of limiting the Speculations of the Americans in China ?

I am not altogether certain of that. I think that the Returns being so unprofitable has imposed one Barrier to the Extension of the Trade ; but I am not aware that the Americans were deterred altogether from going there.

Has not the Circumstance of the best Market in Europe for China Produce being shut against them contributed very much to that ?

No doubt.

Has not the Loss of the Trade in Tea to Canada had an Effect upon their Trade ?

Undoubtedly, to a certain Extent, it has.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Mr. Richard Milne.

Mr. RICHARD MILNE is called in, and examined as follows :

You have carried on Trade with China, have you not ?

I have.

Did you reside in this Country while you were carrying on this Trade ?

No. I was born in Manchester, but a long Time ago I went to the United States of America to vend British Goods. I resided in Philadelphia. I commenced trading to India and China about the Year 1799, and continued shipping in various Vessels till the Year 1811. At the Period to which I allude the Vessels went on Freight ; there would be Ten to Twenty Shippers in one Vessel, and a great Number of Vessels.

What Freight did you pay ; did it vary much during that Period ?

The Period alluded to was that of the War in Europe. Freights were high, I may say Forty-five Dollars per Ton Measurement of Forty Cubic Feet ; or more correctly, speaking of Tea, the Americans allowed Ten Quarter Chests.

Notwithstanding that high Freight, was the Trade profitable ?

It was at the Period to which I allude.

Did it increase gradually from the Year 1799 to the Year 1811 ?

There was an Increase. The Market was occasionally overdone ; but at that Period there were no Manufactures in America, and we imported considerable Quantities of Goods from Calcutta as well as from China ; there was a considerable Trade to India and China out of Philadelphia.

Was that Part of the Trade which proceeded from India profitable ?

It was. I was concerned in both, and I think I may say that I never lost Money during that Period.

Which was the most profitable of the Two, the Indian or the China Trade? *Mr. Richard Milne.*

Sometimes one, sometimes the other; but I think the China Trade was at that Period the more certain.

To whom did you commit the Care of your Exports to China at Canton?

The Vessels by which I shipped, and I believe all the Vessels at that Period, were uniformly accompanied by Supercargoes; the Establishments in China had not then taken place.

Did the Supercargo on board of the Ship take charge of the Goods belonging to all the different Merchants who shipped on board of it?

They did; there were pretty generally Two Supercargoes on board those Vessels, Nine Times in Ten, for the Protection of the Property in the Case of Death.

You were at no Loss for an Agent; you were obliged to commit your Goods to the Supercargo?

Yes.

How much did you pay him?

Three per Cent.

How was that Sum calculated?

I believe he opened an Account current with us; sometimes he deducted his Three per Cent. from the Amount shipped; but at other Times, from the Amount of the Goods purchased; it is nearly the same Thing; deducting it from the Amount shipped was a little in his Favour, but nearly the same Thing in Amount.

Of what did that Shipment consist?

Almost always Spanish Dollars; occasionally a little Ginseng, a Root gathered in America, which the Chinese like to take as Medicine; but I may say almost always Spanish Dollars.

Did the Shipments of other Adventurers in the same Vessel consist likewise of Spanish Dollars?

Nine Times in Ten. The Vessels from Philadelphia, which was at that Time the most extensive Port for the Trade with China from the United States, the Freight Ships, were probably, for their Tonnage, the richest Ships which visited China, having a large Number of Shippers.

What was the Amount of their Tonnage?

From 350 to 450, and perhaps, accidentally, as large as 500 Tons, carrying 300,000 Dollars.

Nothing but Dollars?

Very little besides.

Who carried on the Trade in Merchandize?

The Trade with China in Merchandize from the United States of America is a much later Trade. Some Persons resident in Boston pretty extensively; some resident in Philadelphia, whom I knew, pretty extensively; but the greatest Part of the Trade from the United States of America has been in Spanish Dollars.

When did the Trade in the Export of Merchandize from America spring up?

There has been some Export of American Manufactures, I think not very large, from England, perhaps in the Year 1820, or sooner; I cannot be positive. It commenced small, and has kept increasing.

Have the Americans exported to Canton any Quantity of the Manufactures of Continental Europe?

I should not think much. At New York they can make up a Cargo of Manufactures of Europe generally perhaps as soon as in any Part of the World, the Variety is so great.

Has that been done?

I do not think it has. So far as comes within my Knowledge, the Exports of
Manufactured

Mr. Richard Milne. Manufactured Goods from the United States to China have been the greater Part British, I think.

Have the Americans exported latterly any great Quantity of Opium to China?

I cannot speak to that. I was never engaged in that Trade.

What did you import from China besides Tea?

Silks, Nankeens, and a little Cassia; occasionally, perhaps, some other trifling Things, not worth enumerating.

Were the Silks as profitable as the Teas?

Sometimes the Teas left a good Profit; occasionally the Silks would do better. The Silks were safe if we held them.

Were the Nankeens profitable?

Occasionally; not very, lately; of dull Sale.

Your Trade in Nankeens has almost entirely fallen off, has it not?

Yes. The great Variety of Pantaloon Stuffs made in England and other Countries has destroyed it.

Does the Trade in Silks continue as profitable as it was?

It varies, I think.

Generally speaking, was the safest Return in Tea?

At the Period to which I allude the Return in Tea was very safe; but of late Years very ruinous.

To what Years do you refer, when you say of late Years?

I think Four or Five; for the last Five Years, to speak correctly; I do not pledge myself to One Year.

Do you know the Reason of that?

The American People are extremely industrious, and have great Enterprize. The great Facility given by Government of the Credit for a Year on the Teas, and equally so the Facility with which Money is borrowed on Respondentia, prevails to a considerable Extent.

Will you state what the Law is with respect to the Payment of Duties in America on Imports from China?

As regards Tea, when the Ship arrives we make an Entry to land them from the Vessel, and put them into Bond. The Government, if it is a Person of Respectability, will allow them to be taken into a Room in the Merchant's own Warehouse. The Teas are landed, and taken Home to this Room; and then they affix Two Locks on the Door, the Government keeping one Key and the Merchant the other; those Teas may remain any Period not exceeding One Year; and whenever the Merchant wishes to make use of them, he goes and makes another Entry, getting some Merchant to give a Bond with him, and he has another Year's Credit for the Duties. The Teas are then delivered to the Merchant for Sale.

Supposing you landed Teas and gave your first Bond, and at the End of Twelve Months took out the Teas, should you then give another Bond for the Payment of Duty at the Expiration of Twelve Months from that Time?

Yes, precisely so. The first is my own simple Bond; the Government do not consider themselves as putting me into Possession of the Property; they take my simple Bond for entering in Store; but the second Bond is countersigned by a Merchant, supposed to be of some Solidity.

Then you might possibly have Credit for Two Years, minus a single Day?

Yes; but I can make no Use of the Teas for the first Eleven Months. Until I make my second Entry I do not gain any thing by my Teas being in Bond.

But the Payment of Duty might be deferred for Two Years?

Yes; precisely so.

Could

Could you sell your Goods before the Expiration of the first Year?

Mr. Richard Milne.

Yes. Though the Goods are on my Premises, the Government have one Key and I have another; by making the second Entry I can get Possession of the Property at any Time; but in point of fact, I have only one Year's Credit, though the Payment is deferred for another Year.

You have One Year's Credit after you have sold the Goods?

Yes. It might so happen that I had not much Credit in the Duty on those Teas if the Market was depressed. I might not gain much Time; but, generally speaking, all Merchants within the Year avail themselves of a favourable Period and sell off the whole of their Teas; and it is understood in America, that the first Shipment enables a Person to send out Two others, when sold off, together with the Benefit of the Credit he has derived, if so disposed.

When you take your Goods out of Bond at the End of Eleven Months and sell them, the Price you receive covers the Duty you have afterwards to pay?

It ought to do.

How are you paid; in ready Money or by Bill?

The Trade of America generally, in the large Seaports, is for Promissory Notes. We give Six Months Credit; in general from Four to Six, according to our Agreement; those Notes we can convert into Money on some Terms to reship to China again.

At what Rate could you convert that Bill into Money; can you discount a Bill at Six Months?

Six Months, or Nine Months sometimes. The Bankers do not discount Paper longer than Four Months; but Bills can be discounted at Four, Six, and Eight Months, at Six per Cent. per Annum.

Having by the Sale of those Goods realized some Profit on what you had originally invested in the Purchase of the Exports sold, and having likewise received an additional Price which may be considered as Money lent you by the Government, you are enabled to purchase another Cargo, and so to continue the Adventure?

Yes.

Has not the American Trade with China been in a great measure supported in that Manner?

Not at the Period to which I allude; they were then bonâ fide Capitalists. There went in one of those Freight Ships, which were frequently the richest Ships visiting China for their Tonnage, Consignments by Ten or Twenty Shippers. I would ship £2,000 or so upon one of those Vessels, and go on as many Vessels as I could; being my own Underwriter, which increased the Profit, I would ship £1,000 or £5,000, according to my Ability.

Will you state what were your actual Losses by underwriting?

I never lost any thing; they were good Vessels. I think I shipped once to Calcutta, in the Year 1817 or 1818, in a Vessel which had something damaged; but I gained, I did not lose then.

What was the Rate of Insurance to China at that Time?

During the late War it was Seven or Eight per Cent. out and home.

Were you peculiarly fortunate, or was the Loss small in general?

They were good Ships, and they took care whom they selected for Captains; the Captains were Persons of good Habits, and intelligent.

Was there then very little Competition among the Insurers?

There are a great many Insurance Offices.

Is not Insurance in general higher in America than in this Country?

I do not think it is now; it may be a Fraction; in America there is no Policy Duty; I go to an Office and insure £1,000 Sterling, and all I have to pay is one Dollar for a printed Policy.

Mr. Richard Milne.

What is it in this Country ?

I don't recollect, or not positively.

During the Time you were engaged in the Trade, did it appear to you that the Quality of the Tea you imported was deteriorated ?

The Tea called Young Hyson, which was in great Demand in America, deteriorated or fell off very much in Quality.

Was the Quantity imported much greater than it had been ?

The Import certainly increased. I think Twenty Years ago they told us that Young Hyson Tea, that which was really Young Hyson, the Buds of the first gathering of Hyson, I believe, could not exceed 4,000 Chests ; but the Chinese finding it in great Request, and that the Americans would give a fair Price for it, they increased it to 20,000.

Have they furnished an inferior Tea ?

Yes, the Quality fell off very much.

Did the Quality of Black Tea deteriorate much ?

I never imported much Black Tea.

Did old Teas of a former Year obtain a ready Sale in America ?

No ; they declined in Value, to speak correctly, Five per Cent., unless the new Teas were very inferior in their Quality, and the old ones have been superior ; then the Difference might not be so great ; but if the new Teas were of good Quality, it would be difficult to sell the old Teas.

Even at a Loss of Five per Cent. ?

Yes, I think so ; I believe I am speaking within Bounds, but I cannot pledge myself precisely.

Are you yourself a Judge of the Quality of Teas ?

I know a little.

Should you say that the old Teas were very inferior to the new, supposing them to be originally of the same Quality ?

Since I was examined in another Place I have been into different Shops in London to inform myself. I examined their Teas, and talked to them. Some of them I knew. Their Ideas appeared to me to be very much the same as ours in America, and that the Depreciation in the Quality of Teas would exceed Five per Cent. per Annum.

In the second Year would it fall off more than Five per Cent. ?

I do not mean to speak to that. I should think that the lower-priced Teas would fall off from Five to Seven and a Half per Cent. in the first Year, but that I may be within the Mark, I would say Five.

Would the higher-priced Teas fall off in the same Proportion ?

I think not.

What induced you to leave off the Trade ?

It was not profitable, and I was drawing my Affairs into a small Compass.

What Part ceased to be profitable ; was it the Import of Teas, of Silks, or of Nankeens ?

Of Teas chiefly ; the Loss was serious on Teas latterly.

Was there any Profit on the common Articles you mention ; Drugs, and so on ?

We used to import Cassia to fill up the Tonnage in many of those Ships. Two Tons and One Eighth were allotted for every Thousand Dollars in Value ; and, if the Teas and Silks did not make up the Tonnage, they put in other Articles of smaller Value.

To what Year do you refer, when you say the Trade became unprofitable to you ?

The last Time I shipped was in 1820. I did not lose Money, but I did not make any. A Year or two after that it was better ; but I believe since 1824 there

there has not been much Profit on Teas. Some Persons with superior Judgment and Management may do better, but taking it as a whole I think the Losses have been great. *Mr. Richard Milne.*

Have you any Information by which you can judge whether the Trade is now reviving?

My Letters from America, from Persons engaged in vending English Goods in particular, within the last Two Months, say, we cannot complain of Trade. I am told, indeed I see from the Prices Current, that Teas are very low; but I believe the Americans succeeded better this Year in vending English Goods in China; in some Degree, perhaps, owing to the Misunderstanding with the Company.

Were you in America in 1825?

Yes.

Did you at all watch the Tea Market at that Time?

I do not recollect particularly watching it; I know it was very bad.

Was not that a Year in which there were larger Importations than any other Year?

That was during the Years 1824, 1825, and 1826, and Persons who were then speculative Traders, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Smith, and others, have failed. I believe the vending of English Goods in China by a Person who had some Knowledge of the Caprice and Taste of the People has been beneficial.

Do you mean English Goods taken from America, or English Goods carried by Americans from hence?

English Goods carried by Americans from hence to China.

Can you state what Proportion of Tea imported remains in Bond for the whole Eleven Months, and what Proportion is taken out immediately?

I think in the Course of Thirty or Forty Days after the Import nearly the whole is taken out. The greatest Part of the China Traders make an Entry for the Benefit of long Credit into their own Warehouses or Government Stores, and so soon as that Landing is completed they generally make a final Entry, get the Teas into their own Possession, and make a public Sale of them, the same as at the India House, they sell off an entire Cargo on the Credit of Six Months; an Auctioneer or Person who vends those Goods is often a Person of Capital; he will agree to sell the Goods, to guarantee the Debts, and to cash the Bills, at a certain Per-centage.

Is it allowed to sell Goods in a Bonded Warehouse, without paying up the Duty?

No, it is not; they make an Entry and give a Bond with Security, and then they are delivered; they do not allow them to be sold in Bond; if there be an Hundred Chests, a Merchant can enter Five or Ten, as he wants them; but it was the Custom with many Traders to make a final Entry, and sell the whole off.

What is the Amount of Duty payable in America on Tea?

It is a specific Duty, varying according to different Qualities; on the common Bohea it is Twelve Cents per Pound; on Congo and Souchong, and on all Black Teas, it is Twenty-five; on Hyson Skin Tea it is Twenty-eight; on Young Hyson and Hyson it is Forty, and on the fine Teas, Imperial and Gunpowder, I believe Fifty Cents per Pound.

What is the Proportion of the Duty paid in America to the Duty paid in England?

It appears that the Duty paid in America on all the Teas is about equal to the first Cost in China; I believe I may say it is a Hundred per Cent.; if the Tea in China costs 1s. the Duty is 1s. in America; I have before stated it at 75 to 100, but I believe it is 100.

Mr. Richard Milne.

What is the Amount of Duty when paid on the Sale Price in America?

If Hyson Skin Tea sells for Sixty-three Cents, the Duty which is Twenty-eight, is equal to Forty-five per Cent. On the finer Teas the Duty may be Thirty-three or Thirty-five per Cent. on the Sale Price. I speak without Calculation, but I believe I am nearly correct.

What is the Difference between the Cost Price in China and the Sale Price in America of the different Sorts of Tea?

It has been very bad indeed of late; the Loss on many of those Teas has been Twenty-five per Cent. and Thirty per Cent. I am given to understand now, that the Import of Tea into America this Season will occasion Loss; but I only know what others have told me upon that Subject.

Should you say that Teas bought at New York and Boston in the course of the last Autumn were sold at a remunerating Price to the Importer?

I should think not; Persons in Boston and others have made a Profit perhaps on the Outward Voyage on English Goods from this Country.

To what Cause do you attribute this Loss thus sustained?

The Market has been overstocked with Tea; the Teas on the Continent of Europe have been exceedingly low. The Trade to Canada, as it was termed, has been cut off completely. Coffee is very low in Price, and People in America breakfast on Coffee.

Did the Persons whom you employed to transact your Concerns at Canton experience any Difficulty in managing them there?

My Opinion is, that they did not experience any Difficulty whatever; I never heard of any.

Neither from the Regulations of the Government, nor the Dispositions of the People?

I never heard of any Difficulty whatever; I believe that if they conduct themselves with Propriety they never experience much Difficulty.

Do you conceive the Absence of Difficulty was at all increased by the Presence of the East India Company's Establishment there?

No, I do not think it was; I believe that those Freight Ships from Philadelphia were as well received there as any Ships visiting that Port; they were the richest Ships, decidedly, for their Tonnage.

Did your Agent at Canton ever represent that there was any Difficulty in obtaining an increased Quantity of Teas, if there was a Demand for it?

The Young Hyson Tea left us the best Profit. Our Instructions were to bring all the good Young Hyson Tea they could procure, but their Answer was always that it was not to be had. Of the other Qualities of Tea, sometimes the Price was a little higher, but there was no Deficiency in Quantity.

Is the Young Hyson the best?

No; but it is a favourite Tea with the Americans; it represents the Hyson, and is at a moderate Price.

The Quality of Young Hyson fell off you say in one Year, did it improve in subsequent Years?

I do not think it did.

To what Year do you refer when you say it fell off?

I think the last Five or Six Years; the Prices Current speak to that; the Prices being so low.

It has not recovered in Quality?

It had not while I was in America, or not generally.

Was there any Difficulty in levying the Duty on Tea, on the Principle of rateable Duty?

No, I think not. There were some of the Parties did not pay; but there was no Difficulty as to the Adjustment of the Duty, that I am aware of. The Boxes are marked outside with the different Qualities of Tea. The Boxes are nearly all of the same Size; but a Box of fine Tea weighs much heavier than a coarse one.

Then

Then there could not be a very extensive Fraud?

Mr. Richard Milne.

There could not be. A Box of fine Tea is Thirty or Forty per Cent. heavier than one of coarse Tea.

Have you seen the Statement delivered in to this Committee, and printed, of the comparative Prices of Tea at various Places on the Continent and in America, and the Prices the same Teas would fetch at the East India Company's Sales without Duty?

I have never seen that, not having been able to procure it.

What other Modes of Remittance from China to America are there besides Tea?

Silks and Nankeens.

Is there any Mode of Remittance by Bills?

They often sell Bills drawn on London. If the Exchange be favourable, they carry out Credits.

Would the Loss by remitting by Bills be greater or less than by remitting by Tea?

I am not acquainted with the Exchange; I suppose one will govern the other very much.

You mentioned that some Shipments from America to China had been attended with Advantage, in which the Exporter had consulted the Caprices and Taste of the People?

There are Persons who are good Judges of Fancy Silks; and the Chinese can imitate any thing while they remain there. One of those rich Ships will remain Three Months. The Supercargo will take out Patterns of English or French Goods, and will have something made as near them as possible. The Person who orders those Goods will keep the Patterns to himself, and if they are rich Fancy Goods, he is perhaps greatly benefited by them.

Do you not think that the Exertions and Inquiries of individual Merchants would be much more conducive to Improvement in such a Trade as that than the Dealings of a great Company?

I have no doubt whatever but that would be the Case. But it is my decided Opinion, that if you take an experienced Man out of a large Wholesale Warehouse in London or Manchester, accustomed to the Sale of Goods, and to study the Caprice and Taste of Buyers, such an Individual placed in China could give Instructions to this Country, by which they could imitate a Variety of costly Goods, at a low Price, to please the Chinese. They could imitate a Variety of Things which the People wanted, and could extend the Sales in a Two or Threefold Ratio in a reasonable Period.

You conceive that the Inquiries of Individuals are almost essential to the Improvement of such a Trade as that?

I think if I took an experienced Man out of a large extensive Warehouse in London or Manchester, accustomed to the Sale of Goods and to study the Taste and Caprice of the Buyers, he would be enabled to communicate highly valuable Information to the Manufacturers in England; and such Persons could extend the Trade Two or Threefold in a few Years.

You think that if the Export Trade of the East India Company to China has not lately increased, it may be in part owing to the Absence of that Species of Exertion?

I should think it is in part.

Have not the Americans had the Means of sending out such a Man as you have described for many Years past?

Yes.

Have they done so?

I know some of them have not; but I think such a Person as I have described would be very valuable if he was in China.

Has such a Person ever been sent out there?

There perhaps have been Persons sent there who have done it in part;

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but

Mr. Richard Milne. but not such as are to be had in the great Warehouses in Cheapside or Manchester.

In the event of opening the Trade with China, do you apprehend that the English Merchants would have the Means of extending that Trade beyond those which have been possessed by the Americans?

I think an English Manufacturer or Merchant would understand the Shipment of Goods better, as regards a Free Trade; he would be on the same Footing as regards the Trade in Tea. The Americans have of course the same Advantage as the English; but it is very difficult to enter into competition with a large Manufacturing House in this Country.

Do you not think that a Manufacturing People would unavoidably enjoy greater Advantages of the kind to which you have been just alluding than a Nation which was not manufacturing?

Certainly; that is what I mean to say.

Have not the Americans possessed Means of exporting Manufactures from this Country, and of adapting the Form and the Colour and Fashion of those Manufactures to the Taste which they understood to exist in China?

They certainly have had Persons here; but the very limited Extent to which the Trade has been carried to so immense a Population must shew that it is in its Infancy, in my Opinion.

Do you think there has been a Want of Capital in the Trade?

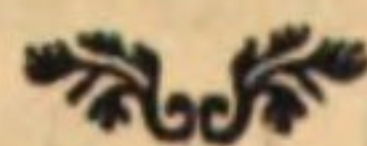
No, I do not think that there is a Want of Capital; but the Trade is too limited for so large a Market; that is my Opinion.

Do you know whether the Americans have attempted to trade with any Part of China except Canton?

Not to my Knowledge.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Thursday next, One o'Clock.



Die Jovis, 24^o Junii, 1830.

The LORD PRESIDENT in the Chair.

Sir JAMES BRABAZON URMSTON is called in, and examined as follows :

Evidence on
the Affairs of
the East India
Company, &c.

Sir J. B. Urmston.

You were in the Company's Service in China?
I was.

What was your Situation?

I was there altogether above Twenty Years ; I filled the several Stations in the Company's Factory, and was President of the Factory about Five Years in the latter Part of my Residence there.

Do you think the Company purchasing their Teas generally by Contract, purchase them as advantageously as Individuals who purchase them in the open Market?

I think so, most certainly ; they have the Chance of procuring better Teas.

Do you conceive that all the best Teas are furnished to those Merchants who contract with the Company?

Not all of them ; a Portion of the Company's Teas are purchased in the Market.

What Proportion of the Teas is purchased in the Market?

It depends a good deal on the Circumstances of the Season ; sometimes a Third, sometimes a Fourth, sometimes a Fifth, if the Contracts fall short, which has been the Case frequently. When they have not been able to obtain a sufficient Quantity of the Contract Teas, the Investment is made up by Purchases in the Market.

Have the Contractors usually failed in delivering the higher or the lower Qualities of Teas in the Quantity demanded by the Company?

During my Residence in China, particularly during my Chiefship, there was a great Defalcation in the Quantity of the Green Teas : that happened in Two or Three Seasons ; we had also some Difficulty in obtaining the Quantity of Green Teas which the Contract required.

Have you gone into the open Market for the Purpose of purchasing those Green Teas when an insufficient Quantity was furnished to the Company by Contract?

When the Quantity of Green Tea was not to be had under the Contract, there was scarcely any of that Tea to be had in the Market. I alluded, in my former Reply, chiefly to the Purchases of Black Teas : it seldom occurred that when there was a Deficiency of Green Teas there were any of those Qualities to be had in the Market.

How do the Americans purchase their Teas?

There have been Instances where they have individually and privately contracted for the Teas, but I believe generally they purchase in the Market.

Do they not usually purchase a very large Quantity of Green Tea?

The Americans have generally run upon Green Teas ; almost invariably. The
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Sir J. B. Urmston. Proportion of Black Teas imported into the United States of America has been, I understand, comparatively very small.

In those Years in which an insufficient Quantity of Green Teas has been furnished on Contract to the Company, and they have not gone into the Market to purchase any Quantity in consequence of the deficient Supply in the Market of that Quality of Tea, how have the Americans supplied themselves?

It has frequently happened, that in the Season when the Company could not obtain their Quantity of Teas, the Americans have also been deficient in their Quantity of Teas to a certain Extent; besides which the Americans have frequently taken that Description of Green Tea which the East India Company would not, as being unsuited for their Investment.

Buying Green Teas of an inferior Quality?

Yes.

Should you say that in general the Quality of the American Teas has been inferior to that of the Company?

I should say so most distinctly; there must of course be some Exceptions to this in a Trade carried on for a long Period of Years.

Have the Teas the Company have purchased in the Market been inferior to those they purchased on Contract?

Not always; sometimes they have been equally good, at other Times they have been rather inferior; they have sometimes been compelled to take rather an inferior Quality of Tea to make up their Investment, not from Choice but from Necessity.

Who are the Persons who supply the Market at Canton with Tea?

Different Teamen (as they are denominated); Teamen who come down the Country. They bring the Contract Teas for the Company, through the Hong Merchants, and also their private Consignments or Investments of Tea, to be disposed of to the Company and private Individuals. Some of the Hong Merchants supply the Americans frequently with such Teas.

Do those Teamen bring down Tea in small Quantities?

They sometimes do, but generally in what may be considered large Quantities, seldom less than Two or Three hundred Chests, which however is comparatively small certainly.

Are they Proprietors of the Tea, or Agents for the Sale of it?

Sometimes they are Proprietors and sometimes Brokers; but I think, generally speaking, the Men who bring the Teas down are Brokers or Agents who bring them from the Proprietors in the Tea Country.

Are they Persons of similar Character to those with whom the Hong Merchants contract for the Supply of the East India Company?

I believe they are of the same Character of Chinese, as far as my Information goes.

Are they not sometimes the same Individuals?

Sometimes it happened so in the Course of a Period of Years.

If a Teaman had made a Contract he thought not advantageous with any one of the Hong Merchants, he would bring his Tea into the Market, would he not?

If the Contract is once entered into between the Hong Merchant and the Teaman, he is bound to produce it.

If he thought it was not advantageous to enter into the Contract proposed to him by the Hong Merchant, he would then bring his Tea into the open Market?

Most assuredly.

So

So that the only Circumstance which would determine him in contracting with the Hong Merchant, or bringing his Tea into the open Market, would be the Terms, whatever they might be, which might be offered to him by the Hong Merchant?

I should apprehend that they have the Chance of a better Sale to, and Payment from, the Hong Merchant than in the Market, and certainly so if the Teas were intended for the Company's Investment.

The Teaman, when he brings down his Tea, sells through the Agency of the Hong Merchant, does he not?

Very frequently he may sell to the Outside-man, because the Teamen do not come within the Monopoly of the Hong Merchant at Canton; they are, I believe, free Agents as far as the Disposal of their Tea is concerned.

Do the Company usually conduct their Business through the Agency of the richest and most solvent of the Hong Merchants, or through that of insolvent Merchants?

The Business of the East India Company at Canton has generally been divided among all the Hong Merchants. When the poorer or junior Merchants have not been able to procure their Teas, it has generally been done through the Agency of the senior Merchants.

Have they ever by preference dealt through the Agency of the inferior and less solvent Merchants of the Hong?

That has rarely been the Case; it has I believe occasionally; I do not immediately however recollect: when they have had proper Security for the obtaining of the Teas from that Merchant; they have seldom done it unless that Person was secured by some of the more opulent Merchants.

Have they done it extensively?

No; the reverse.

They would rather avoid doing it?

Yes, assuredly, if their was any Risk, especially.

Do you apprehend that open Traders at Canton derive any Advantage from the Circumstance of the Company trading through the Agency of the insolvent Hong Merchants?

I should think it made very little Difference to them.

In what Way would it benefit them at all?

I do not think it would at all interfere with them.

Are Teas obtained more readily through the insolvent than through the richer Merchants?

I should say not; for the Teas would be required to be of the same Quality as if they were purchased through the richer Merchants.

Where the Name of an insolvent Merchant is used for a Transaction in Tea, what Commission does he receive; does he receive the same as if he were a solvent Merchant?

It is done with that view; some Remuneration has generally been made to the Hong Merchant who thus assisted the insolvent one; whenever the East India Company deal in that Way with the insolvent Merchant, it is to give him some Assistance to endeavour to relieve him from his Difficulties.

So that it is exactly the same Thing to them whether they purchase through him or through another; they pay exactly the same Commission?

Whenever that has been the Case it is so; but it is not a very usual Occurrence, as I remarked before.

They would not go out of their Way to give the Advantage of that Remuneration to an Insolvent in order to place him in a Situation of great Wealth and more Respectability?

I conceive, that if a Merchant had failed probably more from unfortunate Circumstances than Misconduct, the Company would endeavour by every

Sir J. B. Urmston. Means in their Power, consistently with their own Interest, to assist that Hong Merchant, in order to restore him to his former Situation.

Do you apprehend that it is necessary that the Company's Trade at Canton should be conducted by an Establishment so numerous as that which is now there?

I conceive it would be quite impossible to conduct the Company's Trade with a less Establishment than now exists.

Are all the Persons on that Establishment constantly employed?

Entirely so, during the Season of Business, which is about Six or Eight Months; and a good deal at other Times.

What Length of Time should you think required, in order to obtain such a Knowledge of China and the Trade, as to be enabled to conduct the Business profitably and well?

I think that it would take some Years; the mere buying and selling of Teas might be acquired in Two or Three Years; but there are other equally important Occupations which require several Years Attention and Study to make them perfect.

Do you allude to the learning the Language?

I allude to the Knowledge of the Chinese Character, System, and Habits, to enable us to negotiate with them in the anxious Discussions in which the Company's Servants have been involved. I do not think any Person could do it successfully, unless after some Years of Experience and Study of the general System of the Chinese at Canton.

Do you apprehend that in that Respect the Factory has Advantages over any private Agent residing at Canton?

Most decidedly, the greatest.

What particular Advantages, in your Opinion, are derived to the general Trade of other Merchants, from the Circumstance of the East India Company trading at Canton with their Monopoly?

I consider that the East India Company, by their Power and their Influence generally, have been able to gain Points with the Chinese which have proved frequently beneficial to the other Nations trading to China.

Had the East India Company conducted a Trade of the same Extent under the same Management at Canton, but without a Monopoly, do you think they would have been enabled to effect the same Objects?

Certainly not, in my Opinion.

In what Way do you apprehend that the Possession of that Monopoly has given them greater Influence than they would have otherwise possessed?

It is the great Combination of the Company's Influence, if I may use that Expression, which gives them a Controul over the Markets generally at Canton.

Does not that Influence depend upon the Extent of their Dealings conducted by the Select Committee, and not upon the Circumstance of their being assisted in their Profits by a Monopoly?

I should say that, strictly and fairly speaking, the East India Company's Trade is not that close Monopoly which has generally been represented. I allude to the very large Quantity of British Shipping, belonging to Individuals or private Houses of Agency, which annually proceeds from our Indian Dominions to China, generally called Country Ships, quite distinct from the Company's Ships from this Country. The Company's Trade in Teas to this Country is certainly a Monopoly.

Do you apprehend that, in their Dealings with the Hong Merchants, the Company derive a very great Advantage from their Power over the Country Ships; their Power of stopping the Trade?

I certainly conceive that they possess this Advantage, that having the Authority vested in them over the Country Ships which trade between India and China, they are enabled to take those Measures which would prevent any improper Conduct on the Part of the Country Ships, if they were so disposed.

If

If their Power over the Country Ships extended no further than to the Prevention of improper Conduct on the Part of the Crews of those Country Ships, do you apprehend that that Power would give them any particular Advantage, in dealing with the Hong Merchants, of preventing Exactions and Impositions?

Sir J. B. Urmston.

Certainly, it gives them a great Advantage, I conceive.

What other Power have they over the Country Ships?

They have the Power, in fact, of general Official Controul over them, as having the British Flag flying; they are always placed by the Regulations of the East India Company, as soon as they arrive in the Port of Canton, distinctly under the Authority of the East India Company's Representatives in China.

Have they not the Power of stopping the Trade, and preventing their carrying on the Trade with the Hong Merchants?

Most unquestionably; it has been done occasionally, but only on important and imperative Occasions.

Is not that a most powerful Means in their Hands of preventing the Exactions of the Hong Merchants?

Most certainly it is.

Suppose the Company to lose their Monopoly, could that Power still be exercised by the Persons to whom the Management of their Trade might still be confided?

Yes, I think as regarded the Chinese it might be; because I think their Influence, from the Magnitude of their Trade, would continue, supposing their Trade existed to the same Extent with the Exception of its not being a Monopoly.

This Power of stopping the Trade of the Country Ships does not arise out of the great Trade of the East India Company, but out of the Law and the Act of the Indian Government?

Yes; it is an Agreement between the Government in India and the Owners or Agents of the Country Ships, that they shall be subservient to the Company's Orders and Regulations as soon as they arrive in China.

Supposing there were no East India Company trading to Canton, would it be possible for the Government in India to require to have this Bond executed in respect of the Country Ships, and to give some Person at Canton the Power of stopping the Trade?

I consider that State of Things would so completely alter the British Trade between India and China, that it is impossible for me to form an Opinion upon the Subject.

Will you explain more particularly the Points which you conceive the East India Company, by the peculiar Advantages of its Constitution, has been enabled to carry with the Chinese Government?

I think the Probity of their Dealings, the Magnitude of their Trade, the Confidence which the Chinese have for such a long Period of Years reposed in every Act of the East India Company there, have given them a very powerful Influence with the Chinese over the Trade; they have frequently, when Exactions have been attempted to be imposed on the Trade, averted them by the Firmness of their Servants in China and general Influence with the Chinese; and also in Cases of Homicide they have induced the Chinese to give up Points which would otherwise have been attended with the most vital Consequences.

Have the Ships of the United States, or the other Countries trading to Canton, been subject to Exactions of that Description which have remained unredressed?

All Foreign Ships have from Time to Time been subject to some Vexations; and whenever the East India Company have got theirs removed, the other

Sir J. B. Urmston. Nations have frequently benefited by the same, when the Question bore on the Foreign Trade generally at the Port of Canton.

You conceive no Exaction upon the Ships of the United States or the other Countries has been redressed, except through the Intervention of the East India Company first securing and obtaining a similar Redress?

Not at all Times; some minor Points have, I believe, been occasionally obtained by the Americans and others by their own Representations; but the very important ones, which the East India Company have certainly been the Means of obtaining by the firm Representations of their Servants, could not I am persuaded have been gained by the Americans or others at Canton. The East India Company have generally taken the Lead if it was a Case in which their Trade as well as others has been concerned.

Do you mean that the East India Company has interfered professedly on the Behalf of other Countries, or merely that from having obtained Redress for themselves, Redress has of course followed in the Case of others?

They have never applied for Redress for other Nations alone, but it has sometimes been considered a Measure of Equity and Justice on the Part of the Chinese, that what they gave to the Company they would equally give to the other Nations. The Company have never interfered for other Nations alone by any Chance that I am aware of.

Are you aware of any Instance in which a Grievance, not common to the East India Company and to the Traders of other Nations, has, in consequence of being deprived of the Advantage of the East India Company's Representations, remained unredressed?

I do not immediately recollect any Case in point, but I believe it has sometimes occurred; I cannot say that I remember any particular Case in the Course of my long Residence there; I might perhaps quote one Instance where the friendly Feeling of the English was useful to other Foreigners. I allude to Two Russian Ships that visited Canton some Years since.

State the Circumstances of that Case.

Those Two Russian Vessels went to the Port of Canton after a Voyage of Discovery, for the Purpose of taking on board a Cargo of China Produce for Russia; but as the Russians had never been accustomed to trade in the Port of Canton, but to carry on their Trade between China and Russia over Land from the Frontier of China, the Canton Government in the first Instance refused them Cargoes, but soon afterwards allowed the Ships to load, and made their Reference on the Subject to the Court of Peking; before that Reply returned the Russian Ships had sailed by Permission of the Canton Government. Soon after their Departure an Edict arrived at Canton from the Court of Peking, addressed to the Russian Ships, and that Edict was presented to the President of the Company's Factory, with a Request that he would forward the same to Russia, the Purport of which Edict was forbidding the Russians to trade to Canton. During the Stay of the Russian Ships at Canton, they received every Assistance and Attention they required from the British Authorities, without however the British Authorities in any way whatever interfering in the public Question between the Chinese Government and the Russians. I have little Doubt but this Attention and Assistance on the Part of the English towards the Russians had a good Effect in inducing the Canton Government to allow them to load Teas. I should observe that the Russians were the Emperor's Vessels, and not Private Ships.

This was, as far as you know, the only Instance in which Russian Ships came for the Purpose of trading to Canton?

The only Instance of the Kind within my Knowledge.

Were the Factory at all surprised that the Canton Authorities gave them Permission without waiting for the Opinion of Government?

The Canton Government was not, strictly speaking, justified in doing it, but they did it upon their own Responsibility, and as we heard nothing about it afterwards we supposed it was approved by the Court of Peking.

Were the British Factory at all surprised at the Canton Authorities taking upon themselves to decide this Question? *Sir J. B. Urmston.*

We were somewhat surprised; but the Provincial Government at the same Time took upon themselves considerable Responsibility: the Canton Government, however, are possessed of extensive Powers whenever they think proper to exercise them.

Do they invariably attend to any Instructions they receive from the Pekin Government?

There are, no doubt, general Directions for their Guidance, but the Officers of the Canton Government frequently take upon themselves to act as they see proper; it is in consequence of this that we are so frequently subjected to those Exactions and Annoyances from the Provincial Government.

In what Way does the Influence of the British Factory at Canton operate on the Chinese Authorities in case of any Attempt to establish undue Exactions; does it go beyond the Power of stopping the Trade?

It is, as I have before observed, the general Influence of the East India Company, arising from the Importance and Magnitude of their Trade, which gives the Company that Weight.

Is not that to which the Company would be obliged to resort, if the Chinese Authorities did not yield to their Representation, the Stoppage of the Trade?

We have frequently ourselves stopped the Trade, as well as the Chinese; it was a Measure they only formerly resorted to, but of late Years we have frequently turned the Tables upon them, and stopped the Trade ourselves, by which Means we obtained the Point we required.

Supposing there was no such Body as the Company, and that the Exactions of the Chinese made it unprofitable to trade with them, would not that stop the Trade itself?

This would so completely alter the whole Face of the Intercourse between the English and the Chinese, it is impossible to give an Opinion upon it; the Removal of the Company's Influence would be so new a Feature, that I cannot judge of what might be the Consequences.

Do you think that it is any Advantage to the Trade of the Country Ships that their Trade should be liable to be stopped at the Discretion of the Supercargoes?

I think it is desirable; Individuals must frequently suffer for the public Good in China as in other Places; Ships belonging to private Individuals, when their Trade is suspended, no doubt frequently suffer Loss, unfortunately for the Individuals; but it is for the general Good eventually.

Is not the Existence of such a Power a great Obstacle to Commerce?

No, I think not; it has never been exercised but in Cases of absolute Necessity, and where the Necessity has been most unequivocally and satisfactorily shewn.

If the Owners of Country Ships did not think there existed this Necessity they would then have to suffer without a Cause?

I think, where an Authority like that of the East India Company exists in China, their Opinions should unquestionably prevail over those of the private Persons connected with the Country Ships; they are the Persons in Authority, and are so much the more responsible to the Chinese, consequently their Authority should be indisputable over Ships carrying the British Flag.

Do the Company abstain from purchasing that inferior Description of Tea which the Americans purchase, either for their own Consumption or for other Countries?

Yes, they do.

Is not such Tea cheaper than the lowest Description of Teas the Company sell here?

I believe it is; but every thing depends on the real Quality.

Sir J. B. Urmston.

Do you suppose that which is used in England by the poorer Classes as Tea, and for which they pay the Company's Prices, is really that Plant?

Yes, certainly; that imported by the East India Company.

If, however, in point of fact, a great Adulteration of Tea takes place in this Country by a Mixture of other Leaves, would not such inferior Description of real Tea which the Americans purchase be superior in Quality to such adulterated Mixture?

That I am not prepared to answer; the Teas referred to in my former Answer I considered as those sold at the Company's Sales, and not Teas which might be adulterated in this Country afterwards.

Supposing the Adulteration to take place; if the poorer Classes are now ready to buy adulterated Tea at the Company's Prices of real Tea, would they not be equally ready to buy real Tea, though of a low Quality, if they could get it at a lower Price?

It is impossible for me to judge of the Tastes of the inferior Orders of People in this Country as regards Tea.

Are there not Instructions from the Company never to purchase that inferior Sort of Tea?

Distinctly; we never purchase that Sort of Tea which is alluded to in the Question; I mean Tea of bad Quality.

Do the Chinese make any Distinction between Foreign Nations trading to Canton in point of Duty?

None whatever; the nominal Imperial Duties are the same; the Duties levied on the Articles of Import and Export are the same in respect of all Nations.

In case of any Difficulty arising in the American Trade, how is the Representation of the Americans conveyed to the Authorities in Canton?

The Americans have a Consul there; he is, generally speaking, a complete Cypher; I mean in his public and official Capacity; the Representations have generally been from the Individuals, and they have been managed by the Hong Merchants.

You stated that the Influence of the East India Company arose entirely from the Extent of their Dealings?

In a great Measure, and the strict Confidence the Chinese place in the Company upon all Occasions.

What Reason have you to suppose that Influence would not be equally powerful, whether that Influence was managed by a Consul appointed by the King's Government, or by the Factory appointed by the East India Company?

I think that the Case would so completely change the whole System of British Commerce in China, that I feel a Difficulty in answering the Question; I do not think it possible that an Individual in the Capacity of a Consul could do this.

Why could not the Interests of the British be managed by a Consul, or some Person under the Authority of the King's Government?

He might manage the mere Interests by Representations to Government, but he could not manage the Commercial Transactions.

Would not those Representations be of equal Weight with the Representations made by the Servants of the Company?

I should say not, most decidedly.

Will you state your Reasons, supposing that that Person, whoever he was, was invested with equal Authority with that possessed now by the Company's Factory, with respect to the British Factory in the Port of Canton, the East India Company's Trade existing, but without a Monopoly?

I should consider upon that Occasion that in all Embarrassments and all Discussions with the Chinese Government they would still look to the Trade and not to the Consul; the Chinese cannot enter into the particular Question of

of the exclusive Political Charter granted to the Company, they look to the Company's Servants and the Trade generally, and I feel perfectly satisfied they would treat the Consul almost as a Cypher, and always refer to the Company's Servants and Trade, and not to the Consul. Sir J. B. Urmston.

As they do with respect to the Consul of the American Government?

Precisely in the same way ; I do not think a Consul would have the slightest Weight or Influence with the Chinese.

Supposing the Trade carried on by the Company at Canton were diminished by the Removal of the present Monopoly, do you apprehend that the Influence of their Servants would remain as powerful as it is now?

I think to a very great Extent it would ; as long as they were known to have a Trade there, though not a chartered Trade, their Influence would prevail to a very considerable Extent ; nor could the Chinese easily be brought to forget the Importance of the Company and their Influence, though their Trade might be somewhat diminished.

Though they saw that in point of fact the Company no longer exercised any Authority over the British Ships trading there?

Yes, I think they would appeal to the East India Company there, because of the Trade being a tangible Object ; they would stop the Company's Trade as they do now ; they would not discuss the Matter with the Consul ; they would stop the Trade, beginning with the East India Company's, no doubt.

Do you not think they would have the same Disposition to act with the King's Representative as they have with the Representative of the Company?

I do not think a Consul would have the slightest Weight or Influence with them.

That they would not pay the same Respect to the King's Officer as they do to the Company's Servants?

They might pay him mere personal Respect, as being appointed from the Crown of this Country.

Did they not, in the Case of Admiral Drury, object to treating with him, because he was not the King's Representative?

I was not in China during the Time of Admiral Drury being there ; I was in England.

Do you conceive that the Americans suffer any Inconvenience or Injury in their Commercial Concerns from not having an Establishment similar to that of the East India Company?

I do ; I think they are liable to a great many Commercial Inconveniences at Canton from their Want of Unanimity amongst themselves, and Want of Unity like a public Body.

What Proportion of the American Trade is managed at Canton by Agents?

I am not able to answer that ; the American Trade has been conducted by private Individuals there, and I am totally ignorant of their Arrangements in this respect.

How many Commercial Agents are there at Canton?

I do not know ; I do not exactly recollect. When I left China Three Years ago, there must have been resident there Ten or a Dozen American private Agents, and Eight or Ten British private Agents. Very many other British Agents however are passing the whole Year in Ships to and from India, or they may stop the whole Year round, the Company have never, in the slightest Degree impeded them ; I refer to Agents who came round to manage their Concerns from our various Ports in India, &c.

Can you state what Proportion of the Country Trade, and the Trade of Americans and other Merchants, is conducted by Supercargoes, and what Proportion by Agents?

I cannot answer that, not being aware of private Arrangements connected with the Country Ships. Sometimes the private Ships are consigned to resident Agents in Canton ; at other Times an Agent comes with them, transacts the

Sir J. B. Urmston. Business, and returns in the Ship. But there is no Rule at all ; it is according to the private Arrangements of the Parties concerned.

Do you think that the Power of stopping the Commercial Intercourse with the Chinese would be as safely entrusted to the Consul, who would himself have an Interest in the Trade, as it is with the Factors of the East India Company, who, if they stop for others, must likewise stop their own, and so impose upon themselves a material Inconvenience ?

I do not think the Consul would be of the slightest Use to the Trade as long (as I have observed before) there is a great combined Commercial Body trading there.

Must he have Influence if he had the Power of stopping the Trade ?

I should imagine his Influence would be but trifling.

Do you apprehend that the Influence possessed by the East India Company, and the Extent of their dealing, with the Confidence their Probity has inspired in the Chinese, enable them to obtain their Teas at a lower Cost than the Americans ?

With regard to the Price I cannot say ; but they are unquestionably enabled to obtain better Teas ; they have the Command of the Tea Market, and the Choice of the Market over that of other Nations at Canton.

Therefore, in trading at Canton, they have a decided Advantage over other Nations ?

I think they have decidedly so.

Are you of opinion that the East India Company, without the Monopoly, would still, as a chartered Company, conduct their Trade at Canton to Advantage ?

Most assuredly they would, as a combined Commercial Body, provided the Trade was conducted on the same Principles and in the same Manner as it is at the present Moment. I am viewing this Question as one between the Chinese and the East India Company, not as between the East India Company and the private Individuals in this Country.

Has the Export of British Manufactures to Canton been upon the whole profitable ?

For some Years past, I believe, quite the reverse. I refer to the Company's principally.

Is it less profitable now than it used to be ?

Less than some few Years back, certainly.

Are you aware that the Price of British Manufactures, especially Cottons and Woollens, has considerably diminished in the last few Years ?

Yes, it has ; but the Price has been diminished also in China.

Are you aware that the Reduction of Price in China has not been in proportion to the Reduction of Price here ?

No, it has not.

Notwithstanding that, has the Export of Woollens become more unprofitable than it used to be ?

It has.

To what do you attribute that ?

I attribute it to that which perhaps is not generally very well understood in this Country ; the Resources the Chinese possess in their own Manufactures of Silks and Cottons, which answer their Purposes at all Seasons of the Year and for every Class of Life. And I should add also, that I think, as far as my Information enables me to judge, that China, generally speaking, is in a much more impoverished State as a Nation than it was even Twenty Years ago. I go on such general Information only as I collected in China. I think these are some Causes, added to the Markets being overstocked with British Manufactures, why such Commodities have not gone off so well in China of late Years.

If

If British Manufactures are Forty-five or Fifty per Cent. cheaper than they were Twenty Years ago in England, and there has been a great Reduction in Freight and Charges, how do you account for the Export of British Manufactures being less profitable than it used to be? *Sir J. B. Urnston.*

I can only account for it from this, that the Chinese do not require our Manufactures as they did formerly.

The Measure of their Demand is the Price they are willing to give, and we know that they now give a Price smaller than that they gave before, but not diminished in proportion to the Diminution of the Price of the British Manufactures in England?

I should say that arose from the Chinese not requiring our Manufactures so much as they formerly did; I do not think that the Price has any thing to do with it as the Want of Demand.

Have the Prices of their own home-made Commodities diminished?

No, I fancy not; I believe they are about the same Prices, so far as my Information enables me to judge, as they formerly were.

Does it come within your Knowledge that the Chinese manufacture a larger Quantity of Goods than they used to do?

Of Cotton Goods of their own I have understood they do.

Have there been any Duties taken off their own Manufactures, to your Knowledge?

I cannot speak to that Point.

Do you know of any Instance in which the American Consul has had Recourse to the Influence of the Factory with the Chinese to remove Obstructions in the Way of Americans carrying on their Trade?

I am not aware of any.

Are you aware of any particular Instance in which the American Consul has himself made Representations to the Chinese Authorities?

There have been frequent Cases where, I understand, the American Consul has made Representations to the Chinese Government, and has sometimes obtained Redress, and sometimes he has not.

It appears by the Paper No. 11. Page 21. of the Papers before the Committee, that the Price of Superfine Spanish striped Cloth exported in the Season 1813-14 was £26 7s. 11d.; the Sale Price of that at Canton in 1814-15 £28 12s. It appears that the Price of the same Cloth in 1828-29 was £11 0s. 2d.; the expected Sale Price in Canton in 1829-30, £17. Can you explain why the Export of that Cloth should be less profitable now than it was in the Year 1813-14?

I rather suspect, as far as my Recollection leads me, that that was an experimental Consignment at the Time it was made, but which proved unacceptable to the Chinese, and consequently the Price became reduced. I think it was an experimental Consignment, but found not to answer.

It appears that the Price of Long Ells in the Season 1813-14 was £2 7s. 2d., and the Sale Price at Canton in 1814-15 £2 10s. The Price of Long Ells in 1828-29 was £1 13s. 11d., and the expected Sale Price at Canton £2 2s. 8d. Does it not appear from that Statement that the Export of Long Ells must be much more profitable now than it was in the Year 1813-14?

I can only answer that Question in the same Way I have done others on the same Subject, that I am persuaded there is much less Demand for our Woollens in the present Day at China than there was formerly.

Has any Quantity of Long Ells remained on the Hands of the Factory?

Formerly, some Years ago, when the Company exported a very large Quantity, there was frequently a great Quantity remaining in the Hands of the Company; but of late Years the Exportation of Long Ells has been so reduced they have generally been sold off on their Arrival in China.

To what do you attribute the Diminution of Demand for Woollens in China?

I really conceive that it is because the Chinese do not consume our Articles as they did in former Years, and that the Markets have been overstocked.

Sir J. B. Urmston.

How do you account for that ?

It is very difficult, except that they do not actually require them ; they have found their own Manufactures answer their Purpose as well, with a less Cost to themselves.

Are Woollen Manufactories carried on in China ?

No ; but they have the Cotton and Silk, which answer their Purpose.

Do not the higher Ranks wear Woollens ?

No ; if they wear any of our Manufactures, it is Camlets.

It appears from the Statements read to you from these Returns, that in the Year 1813-14 the Long Ells exported from this Country produced a Rise in China beyond the Price paid for them in England of 2s. 10d., and that the Long Ells exported in 1828-29 were expected to produce a Price in China beyond that paid in this Country of 8s. 9d. ; can you state how, under those Circumstances, the Export of Long Ells can be less profitable now than it was in 1813-14 ?

No ; I am not aware of the Circumstances.

Has there been any Import of Goods in competition with ours into the Port of Canton of late ?

The Americans have imported them.

In what respect are their Articles preferred to ours ?

I do not think their Articles have been preferred to ours by the Chinese, but from such an additional Quantity being thrown into the Market, the Market has become overstocked.

In the same Articles do the Americans undersell us ?

Yes ; but there is one thing I might probably be allowed to state : the Americans were in the habit at one Period, in China, of introducing a Quantity of Camlets, for which they did not pay the regular Duties, but either smuggled them or passed them off as another Article, whilst the East India Company were paying Seventeen and Eighteen Dollars apiece for Articles of the same Description, paying their regular Duties publicly ; this Transaction of course gave the Americans every Advantage in the Disposal of this Article.

That would be only a temporary Case ; where the Duties are equally and fairly paid by the Americans and the East India Company, is the Price of the American Camlets or the Company's Camlets lowest ?

They are the same Price ; I believe they are the same Article ; they were sent from Liverpool, as I have understood, and had very much the Appearance of the Company's Bales, they were so ingeniously packed up and marked.

When the Americans state that they have realised a Profit on the Export of British Manufactures to China, do you apprehend that may be attributed to their having smuggled in those Articles and avoided the Payment of Duties ?

I think it is to a considerable Extent ; I doubt very much the Americans having obtained the Advantages which have been stated in the Public Papers ; an American of some Respectability assured me, before I left China, that so far from the Woollen and Camlet Trade being a profitable one, they were in fact a losing Concern.

In what Year was that ?

In the Year 1825 or 1826.

Do the Americans generally do their Business at Canton through the Hong Merchants, or in what Form ?

A great deal through the Outside Merchants.

When a Ship drops her Anchor, is not Security entered into by some one for the good Conduct of her Crew during her Stay on the Coast ?

Immediately ; and she cannot commence her Commercial Operations till some Hong Merchant secures her.

Is there any greater Difficulty experienced by the Americans, whose Trade is free, in finding such Security, than is experienced by the East India Company's Ships? Sir J. B. Urmston.

Most certainly; the Americans have frequently had Difficulty in obtaining a Security Merchant for their Ships.

To what do you attribute that Difficulty?

The natural Aversion which every Chinese has to become responsible for the Act of any Ship, but above all a private one.

Why should that operate to a greater Extent with the Americans than with our Ships?

Because we have entered into an Agreement; there is an Understanding between the Company's Representatives and the Hong Merchants, that the Company's Ships shall be secured by the Hong Merchants in rotation as they stand upon the List.

How is that applied to the Country Ships?

The Country Ships are secured generally by an Arrangement between the Agents or the Parties belonging to the Country Ship and any particular Hong Merchant through whom they may sell their Investment; that is a private Arrangement entirely.

Do Country Ships find greater Difficulty in getting Security than the Company's Ships?

Sometimes they have a Difficulty, but not very frequently.

Is there any Difficulty at all when a Ship is consigned to a private Agent?

Not so much if he is an established Agent of Respectability in Canton, of which there are now several.

The Question refers to Country British Ships; is there a greater Difficulty experienced by a British Country Ship in gaining Security than by an American Free Trader?

I should say distinctly that the Difficulties are less with the Country Ships, from the Circumstance of their being British Country Ships; for they know that those Ships are under the Authority of the Company's Representatives.

Do the Dutch carry on any considerable Trade in Canton?

When I left China there were Four or Five Ships from Holland of about Four or Five hundred Tons each, I believe.

Do they trade under any chartered Company, or are they running Ships?

Originally they traded entirely under a chartered Company (the Dutch East India Company); during the War that Trade was annihilated, and the Americans became the Carriers of that Trade; at the Conclusion of the War the Dutch appeared again; there were some private Ships, others were sent out by an Establishment, a Body called in Holland, I believe, the Dutch East India Company, or the Dutch Company; but I have heard so little about it that I am not prepared to answer the Question distinctly, as regards this new Dutch Company; but formerly they traded as a public chartered Body for many Years.

Supposing the Trade of the East India Company with China became at liberty, do you conceive there would be greater Difficulties attending the Private Trade in finding Security for the good Behaviour of the Crews of the Shipping than is now experienced under the present Management of their Trade?

I should say so distinctly; private individual Ships, or private Traders, would have very considerable Difficulty in obtaining Security of Merchants for themselves in China.

What is the Export generally of the Dutch Ships to China?

Dutch Camlets has been their principal Article of Export.

Is their Trade an increasing Trade, or diminishing?

I have not heard for the last Three or Four Years much about the Dutch China Trade.

Sir J. B. Urmston.

Are those Camlets of a Quality superior to those imported by the East India Company?

The Chinese at one Time preferred the Dutch Camlets; but latterly our Manufactures have been so much improved that I believe the Chinese give the Preference to our own; at all Events they hold them in equal Estimation with the Dutch Camlets.

What has been the Import Cargo into China by any other Ships?

The Spaniards have very rarely visited China of late. The Portuguese Trade is confined strictly to the little Colony of Macao, which they have in China. Their Trade almost entirely consists of Opium, between Bengal and Macao.

Have there been any French Ships?

Yes; they brought principally Wines, and Articles of that Description; and returned with an assorted Cargo of Teas, and Silks, and Chinaware; a general assorted Cargo, in fact.

Did you hear whether the Import of Wines was profitable?

The Wines were profitable to a small Extent; they were not bought by the Chinese, but by Europeans resident in China. They brought Money principally for the Purchase of their Homeward Cargo.

Has there been any Danish or Swedish Ship?

A Swedish Ship has not been there for many Years; a Danish Ship arrived, I think, the Year I quitted China.

Do you think Wine would be a profitable Article in the China Market?

No; quite the reverse. The Wine by the French Ship was bought up by the Europeans, being a superior Article, for their own drinking; the Chinese do not drink it.

Do you apprehend, if there was a much greater Demand for Tea, that Tea could be furnished by the Merchants of equal Quality?

In the Course of Years; but I think for the first few Years there would be a considerable Difficulty in their getting a sufficient Quantity. The Demand must become gradual, and regular, and established; then possibly they might increase the Growth of their Teas; but it is by no Means certain.

During the last Fifteen or Twenty Years there has been, has there not, an increased Demand to the Extent of Five or Ten Millions of Pounds, on the Part of Foreign Merchants trading to China, altogether?

There has been an Increase, but that has chiefly arisen on the Part of Great Britain.

Has that great Increase produced a Deterioration of Quality, or an Increase of Price?

As far as the Company's Investment goes, I do not think that it has made any Difference in the Quality of their Teas.

Has it in the Price?

No, I think not.

Then in the Course of Ten or Fifteen Years an additional Quantity of Five or Ten Millions of Pounds of Tea having been exported from China, has that been, so far as you know, without any Deterioration of Quality of that increased Quantity of Teas which has been furnished to the East India Company, or any Increase of Price?

Yes, without any Deterioration in Quality; but I consider that it has arisen solely from the extreme Care, Vigilance, Exertions, and Attention of the East India Company's Servants in China, that the additional Quantity of Teas, so stated to have been imported, was not of a deteriorated Quality.

Will you turn to the Account Number 11. in Page 21. to which you have been before referred; what Description of Cloth is that stated to be superfine Spanish striped Cloth?

It was, I believe, sent out to China the Year after I quitted Canton; I do not remember to have seen it, but I understood it was an experimental Concern; I know the Circumstance of its having gone out.

Were not you in Canton in 1813-14?

I was, but it did not come under my Eye; I have no Recollection of having seen it.

It appears that the Quantity of that particular Article of Cloth has increased between 1813-14 and 1828-29 nearly double; is the Demand for that Description of Cloth increasing in China?

Certainly not; I should say decreasing.

Then how do you account for the Fact of a greater Quantity having been sent to China in 1828-29 than in 1813-14?

From the Anxiety of the East India Company to forward the Exportation of British Manufactures as much as in their Power was possible.

Do you attribute any Part of the Decrease of Price to the Market being overstocked in China?

Almost entirely to the Market being overstocked, as I before remarked.

Have you any Reason to think that the Supply of Tea of a superior Quality sent from the Tea Country to the Market of Canton, is below the Demand that there is for that Species of Tea?

Most distinctly; the East India Company have frequently had considerable Difficulty in getting the better Kind of Teas.

You think that there is a Species of Tea, the Supply of which is so limited, that, after the East India Company have been furnished with the Quantity they required, the Americans, if desirous of procuring it, would be unable?

They would be perfectly unable to obtain it.

Do you know, or have you heard, of any Instance in which the Americans, being able to procure a superior Sort of Tea, have chosen an inferior Description, as finding it more profitable?

No, I am not; I am not aware of the Circumstance.

If however it should be the Fact that, having an Opportunity of making such a Choice, they have chosen the inferior Description, how would you account for that Fact?

It must be from their own Commercial Arrangements, which I cannot be aware of.

Is not the sort of Tea to which your late Answer had reference, principally Black Tea?

Souchong and Green Teas, and the better Sort of Congo.

Has not the Demand for Green Tea in the English Market considerably diminished of late Years?

I am not aware of the State of the English Market.

You were in China in the Years 1818-19 and 1819-20?

I was.

It appears in the Account No. 32. that in the Year 1818-19 the Company exported from China 21,085,860 lbs. of Tea, and in the following Year 28,476,231 lbs.; are you aware whether any Difficulty was experienced in obtaining that increased Supply of more than Seven Millions of Pounds of Tea required in One Year, and whether the Price rose in proportion to that increased Demand?

The Company's Servants, if I recollect rightly, had considerable Difficulty in obtaining that additional Supply at that Period; with regard to the Prices, I have no immediate Recollection of them.

It appears that in the Year 1825-26 the Company exported 27,821,121 lbs., and in the Year 1826-27, 40,182,241 lbs. of Tea; are you aware whether any Difficulty was experienced in obtaining that increased Supply of more than Twelve Millions of Pounds of Tea in One Year?

They had, if I recollect, very great Difficulty in obtaining that additional Supply.

Sir J. B. Urmston.

Are you aware whether the Price was increased in proportion to that increased Demand?

I am not.

Does considerable Adulteration of Tea take place between the Time of its leaving the Place of its Growth and Canton?

No, I believe not; and most certainly not in the Company's Teas.

Nor any Mixture?

No, I believe not; certainly not in the Company's.

Are you able, from your Acquaintance with China, to assign any Reason why the Supply of a superior Description of Teas is unequal to the Demand?

I can only account for it from the Deficit in the Growth; that there is not sufficient of it; the Chinese perhaps have not sufficiently attended to an extended Cultivation of it.

Has there been any additional Tax imposed by the Chinese Government affecting the Growth of Tea?

Not to my Knowledge.

How long does it take in the Culture of the Plant, to bring it to that State to produce the Teas?

I have understood from intelligent Chinese, that it takes about Three Years, generally speaking; but I believe it depends a good deal on Soil and Locality, and other Circumstances.

When the Demand for Tea has been so greatly increased, has the Company been obliged to purchase Teas of a very inferior Quality?

They have sometimes been compelled, when they could not obtain Teas of a better Sort, to make up the additional Quantity with Teas of a lower Quality than that termed the Contract Quality of Teas; but they have always been exceedingly cautious and particular in the Quality of their Teas.

Can you state whether, in that Year in which the Demand of the Company increased to an Extent of more than Twelve Millions of Pounds, the whole of that additional Quantity consisted of inferior Tea?

I have no immediate Recollection of the Quality which comprised that additional Quantity. I should think Part of it must have been of superior Quality, but I have no distinct Recollection at this Moment.

Do you know whether any Part of that increased Supply was brought from the remoter Parts of the Country?

No, certainly not; it was all brought from the usual Tea Country.

Is the Tea which is furnished to the Russian Commerce, furnished from the same Parts of the Chinese Empire with the Tea that comes down to Canton?

That is a Point we have never been able distinctly to ascertain; but, from all my Information, I am led to believe that the Teas sent over Land to Russia are partly obtained from the Tea Countries from which we get our Supplies, and partly from another Province from which we do not get our Supplies.

Can you state whether, upon the whole, the Cultivation of Tea is on the Increase or stationary in the Provinces?

I cannot.

Have you been able to ascertain what Increase of Price is necessary to cover the Cost of the Conveyance of a Pound of Tea from the most distant Province to where it is conveyed to Canton?

No; I am not able to answer that Question.

Have you ever heard the original Price of Tea in any of the Provinces in which it is produced?

No, I have not; it passes through so many Hands, and there are so many Expences attending it, that it is difficult to arrive at that Fact, limited as we are in China in our Means and Channels of Information.

Do you know whether the Tea purchased for private Consumption in China is purchased at a cheaper Rate than that which you pay for it?

I am not exactly aware of that.

How

How many Years does the Tea Plant continue to thrive ?

Sir J. B. Urmston.

I have heard it variously stated ; some say Ten or Fifteen Years ; it is merely a Matter of Opinion with me, from my general Information on the Subject.

Can you at all account for that extraordinary Increase of Twelve Millions of Pounds, which appears to have taken place in the Export of Tea from 1825-26 to 1826-27 ?

I can only account for it from a greater Demand for it in this Country ; I am not aware of the particular Circumstances attending it.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

WALTER STEVENSON DAVIDSON Esquire is called in, and examined
as follows :

*W. S. Davidson,
Esq.*

In what Situation were you in Canton ?

I was in the Situation of a private Merchant and general Agent.

Were you in the Service of the East India Company ?

No ; quite unconnected with the Company.

How long were you there ?

Eleven or Twelve Years.

When did you go there ?

I visited China first in the Year 1807, and settled there in 1811.

How long did you remain there ?

Till 1822.

Whence did you go to China ?

From England, by the Way of India.

Did you go with a Licence from the East India Company ?

None whatever. I resided as a Portuguese Subject, having obtained from the King of Portugal Naturalization, and all the Privileges and Immunities of a Portuguese Subject, while residing at Macao.

Did you go out in a Portuguese Ship ?

No ; I went out in an English Ship.

Having first made yourself a Portuguese ?

I could not make myself a Portuguese Subject in England, but merely possessed that Privilege in China. I indemnified the Captain of the English Ship on which I embarked against the Penalty to the East India Company, provided he should be obliged to pay it.

It was on your Arrival at Macao you obtained Naturalization ?

No ; I obtained the Credentials of Naturalization in London, before going out.

Is that a Thing to be purchased ?

No ; it did not cost me One Shilling ; it was obtained for me by the English Ambassador then at the Court of Brazils.

Did you act as Merchant for yourself, or as Agent for others ?

In both Capacities.

Did you act extensively as an Agent ?

Very extensively.

In the Conduct of your Business, did you derive Advantages from the Existence of the East India Company, as a great Trading Company at Canton ?

Certainly ; I should have been exceedingly sorry to settle in Canton but for the Power of the Company, in some Measure at least, to protect British Commerce, and, consequently, that Commerce which I conducted.

W. S. Davidson,
Esq.

State the particular Manner which you conceive you derived this Advantage from the East India Company's Influence in China?

I derived Advantages, in common with all other Foreigners, I may say, from the Circumstance of a powerful Body like the East India Company possessing important Influence, in consequence of their great Character and extensive Trade.

In what Manner was that Influence exerted so as to benefit you?

It was never actively exerted so as to benefit me, and it would have been quite in vain for me to have asked them to do so; but it was exerted, I conceive, in favour of all British Trade, and as almost all the Trade I managed was British, although I could only reside in the Capacity of a Foreigner, I derived Advantages in common with all others who managed Commerce of the same Description.

What was the particular Nature of the Advantages you derived, and in what Manner did you derive them?

I am at a Loss to detail in what Manner I derived them, although highly sensible of their Existence.

Do you consider that the Influence of the Company was in any way a Counterpoise to the Influence of the Hong?

Most decidedly so; a most invaluable one; indeed I consider that had it not been for the Existence of the Company in China, the British Trade could not have been carried on.

State your Reasons for entertaining that Opinion?

Because the Exactions, the Oppression, and Injustice of the Chinese Government are so great, that I conceive no Individual would be fool-hardy enough to hazard sending his Property on Shore in that Country, but from the Knowledge that a Body like the East India Company is there to countenance it.

Will you state any specific Exaction which the Chinese Government attempted to carry into effect, and which the Company successfully resisted?

In the Year 1814 the Chinese Government attempted to make the Hong Monopoly more close than it had ever been before; and had not the East India Company's Authorities resisted upon that Occasion, it is impossible to say the Lengths to which the Chinese would have gone in taxing both the Imports and Exports at their own capricious Pleasure, and, consequently, in diminishing the Profits and increasing the Hazard of enterprising Individuals.

Do you consider that a Diminution of the Number of Hong Merchants acts as a Tax on Imports and Exports?

It enhances the Power of the remaining Merchants so much that it is most likely to produce that Effect; indeed, I might say, the certain Result.

Are not the Hong Merchants, in fact, Agents for the Sale of the Tea furnished by the Tea Merchants in the Interior?

Avowedly they are the Principals; but they may be, and no doubt are, on many Occasions, merely the Agents of a Tea Transaction.

Is it consistent with your own Knowledge, whether they are actually to any great Extent Dealers in Tea as their own Property, or Agents for the Sale of Teas belonging to others.

I should think in a great many Instances merely Agents, because in my Time the Hong was principally composed of Men in bankrupt Circumstances, who possessed in reality no Property whatever.

In as far as the Hong Merchants acted as Agents for the Sale of the Property of others, must it not have been their Interest to extend the Trade?

Certainly.

Would not any Exactions imposed by them have had the Effect of diminishing instead of extending the Trade?

Certainly; and that is One of the Absurdities which is practised every Day in China, as well as in this Country, and in all Countries, indeed.

Have any Exactions, within your Knowledge, been recently enforced by the Chinese Government?

*W. S. Davidson,
Esq.*

It is now between Eight and Nine Years since I quitted the Spot, and of course, from that Period, I have only Information by the Report of others.

Have the goodness to speak to any Fact within your own immediate Knowledge during the Time you were in China?

If I am to speak to Grievances, there are many: They attempted to take away our Servants; at one Time they resisted the valuable Right of communicating in the Chinese Language, which the East India Company gained; after a great Battle they attempted, I think, to prevent the Passage of Letters and Persons from Macao to Canton; they exacted Fees on trifling Articles of Baggage at Canton, and so forth.

What was the Amount of those Fees?

Trifling.

Did they, during all the Time you were in China, attempt to impose any new Duty on the Import or Export of any Article of Merchandize?

During my whole Experience in China, which was very extensive, I never had occasion to know any thing whatever respecting the Details of Duty, either on the Inward Cargo or the Outward.

Being an Agent at Canton, how did you manage to avoid the obtaining that Knowledge?

The Chinese Merchant manages all that, and the European need not necessarily know any thing of it. The Prices given for the Commodity are such as enable the Chinese Merchant to pay the Duties on the Inward Cargo; and the Prices demanded, or charged, on the Outward Cargo, also embrace the Duty, for which the Chinese Lander and Shipper is alone responsible.

Were not you called upon to pay Duties on the Ship?

Always.

Were those increased?

No, I think not; at least I do not recollect any Increase of that Nature.

Were not those Alterations which the Chinese appear to have been desirous of introducing rather of a vexatious than of an onerous Character?

Decidedly; but the Knowledge which the Parties who reside in China acquire of the Chinese Government quickly teaches them, that if they do not resist Encroachments in the Commencement, Resistance soon proves to be too late, and they would become intolerable.

In what Manner did the Factory of the Company proceed to resist those Innovations?

In the Year 1814 the Chief of the Factory stopped all British Trade.

That was on the Attempt to diminish the Number of Servants, was it not?

Yes; that may have formed Part of our many Grievances.

In what Manner did they resist those Innovations you have referred to?

The only Stoppages of consequence that I witnessed were those of 1814, and One in 1821, which took place upon the Occasion of Loss of Lives, in the Affair of the *Topaz* Frigate.

Were those Innovations, as to the Conveyance of Letters, and with regard to Servants, and so on, resisted successfully, or submitted to?

They were resisted firmly, vigorously, and successfully by Mr. Elphinstone, the then Chief, and the Committee, and as I conceive, most judiciously so.

In what Manner were they resisted?

By a Stoppage of the Trade 'till the Chinese gave way.

As regarded the Servants, or the Landing of Luggage, and the Letters and so on, was there a Stoppage of the Trade for those Innovations?

I understood the Question to allude to the principal Grievance, which was in regard to the Co-Hong; but when the Trade is stopped for a great Grievance,

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the Opportunity to tack on others that may exist is too good to let pass unprofited by.

Were all those Grievances before 1814?

They had existed before in some Measure, perhaps, but it was then they became intolerable, and called forth firm Resistance.

Where no other Grievances existed than those little ones, is any Attempt made to resist them, or are they submitted to?

The East India Company's Servants in China are of course very sorry to stop the Trade, because the Experiment costs them dear, in the Demurrage of Vessels and other contingent Expences.

Can you state what Proportion of the Trade of the Americans or the Country Trade is conducted through Agency, and what Proportion is conducted through Supercargoes?

Indeed I cannot. I have but a vague Idea of the Matter, and it is, of course, a Proportion constantly fluctuating.

Do the Company usually deal through the Medium of bankrupt Merchants of the Hong, or the solvent?

All the Merchants comprising the Hong have a Share or Shares of the Business; the Company consequently deal with each of them according to the Extent of the Share or Shares they hold respectively.

In your Opinion, was any Advantage derived by you from the Circumstance of trading through Bankrupts?

Very great indeed in my Time; I often selected Bankrupts to deal with, because I very seldom could deal with the Merchants on fair Terms. Some of them were satisfied with the certain Profits on the Company's Business, and did not covet other Business very much.

State the Advantage, in your Opinion, from dealing with a Bankrupt?

They gave much better Prices; and too often, I suspect, they gave higher Prices than they could afford to do in the actual State of the Markets.

In what Manner did you conduct your Business when you conducted it through an Insolvent?

Precisely as I should have done had I dealt with a solvent Merchant; they held the same Rank, and conducted their Business in the same Manner.

Did you contract with them for what you wanted?

Frequently.

Did you trust the Money in their Hands, they being insolvent?

Constantly, and in very large Sums.

Were the other Hong Merchants answerable for them?

I do not call to Mind an Instance in which I ever made a rich Hong Merchant responsible for a poor one; but I believe it has been done.

Then, in fact, no Person was responsible for those Bankrupts with whom you dealt?

No Person whatever; but I knew that they had Shares in the Company's Business, and I felt assured they would be able to pay me, which they were; I do not think my Constituents often lost in consequence of that System.

On what Circumstance was that Assurance of yours grounded, if those Bankrupts had no Money?

I think I stated, because I had Confidence in their Connection with the East India Company's Business, which was a very profitable one to those Merchants.

Did you trust to those Persons to make Contracts with the Teamen, or did you make your own Contracts with the Teamen, using the Names of the Bankrupts to cover the Transaction?

I do not think I ever made a Contract direct with a Teaman, or often with an Outside Merchant, though many of them were respectable; I almost systematically dealt with Hong Merchants.

Do

Do you know to what Circumstance it was to be attributed that you obtained your Teas at a lower Price from the insolvent than the solvent Merchants?

The insolvent Merchants, having no Stake, and being exceedingly anxious to deal, were not of course so scrupulous about obtaining Profits on what they did as solvent Merchants would have been; I attribute it to that Cause; besides which, when an insolvent Man is in the habit of dealing largely, he wishes to continue to go on, or his Insolvency will become apparent; for instance, it was only by obtaining Possession of a Cargo To-day, he was enabled to pay for one he bought last Week or last Month; it is like Accommodation Bills in this Country; a Man depending upon a Number of such out, must put others forth when the current ones became due, if he has no real Resources to fall back upon.

Do the American Merchants conduct their Business usually with the Insolvents?

A great deal in my Time.

Did you understand that they considered it more profitable to do so?

I have no doubt they discovered it to be more profitable to do so.

Can you state why the Company did not deal much more with the insolvent Merchants, if it was more profitable to do so?

That of course would have involved a still greater Credit than they gave them; and the Servants of the Company, knowing their actual State, would of course not be disposed to do so.

If the Servants of the Company were not disposed to do so, why should it be so?

The Reason that I and others did this, with Security ultimately, in so many Cases was, because the insolvent Part of the Hong derived great Advantages from their sharing the East India Company's Trade. If the East India Company had found it convenient or safe to deal equally with them as with the others, very likely they would not have become insolvent, but might have acquired Wealth.

If their Dealings with the East India Company were not so advantageous as to make them rich, what Advantage did they obtain in their Transactions with you?

The East India Company's Dealing might not be such as to make them solvent; but if the East India Company had not dealt with them at all, neither I nor any Person would have done so; and it was only on the Ground of their having a Share, though a small one, of that Trade, that we had Confidence to deal with them; it was a bad System, and I have understood it has been declining by Degrees since I quitted the Country.

Do you mean as to dealing with Insolvents?

As to having in the Hong, Men notoriously insolvent.

If it was so advantageous to you, how has it been discovered since to be so bad and ruinous a System?

Because by Degrees the insolvent Hong Merchants, notwithstanding the Countenance of private Dealers like myself, would, in course of Time, become insolvent, and when they did so, were frequently indebted to the East India Company; consequently that proved what may be termed a ruinous System to them although individual Traders may have escaped; and I stated originally that I seldom lost, or any of my Constituents, being as vigilant as possible, as may be naturally supposed we would be.

Did the East India Company make Advances to them?

In the earlier Period of my Residence in China, largely; in the middle, more cautiously; and latterly they became still more contracted.

Then your Engagements with individual Merchants have been performed by the Advances of the East India Company?

That is the direct Inference, and it has happened so.

So that though it was very advantageous to individual Merchants to deal with those insolvent Merchants, that Advantage was obtained to them through the Losses of the East India Company?

I do not mean to go so far as that; the Company were Losers, of course, in

W. S. Davidson,
Esq.

proportion as the Insolvents were indebted to them at the Moment they ceased to do Hong Business.

State any other Advantages which, in your Opinion, were derived from the Existence of the East India Company as a great trading Company at Canton, otherwise than those you have mentioned — their being a Counterpoise to the Hong, and their supporting those Bankrupts ?

I think I have already stated that, in the past and present State of Non-intercourse between the Government of this Country and that of China, it would be truly hazardous and rash for any British Merchant to settle there and trust his Property in the Hands of such an unjust and extortionate Government, without any protecting Power to look up to; and therefore so long as the present State of Things exists in China, I conceive the East India Company is a most valuable Protection to all British Interests; their Fleet visiting China every Season, consisting of about Twenty Ships efficiently equipped, and the Influence of their resident Servants, both from the excellent Character they have generally borne and the large Extent of Property always under their Charge, having enabled the British Factory to bestow great Benefits on individual British Traders, as well as on other Foreign Traders, in my Opinion.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned 'till To-morrow, One o'Clock.

Die Veneris, 25^o Junii 1830.

The LORD PRESIDENT in the Chair.

WALTER STEVENSON DAVIDSON Esquire is called in, and further examined as follows :

Evidence on
the Affairs of
the East India
Company, &c.

Do you think the Existence of the East India Company as a Trading Company at Canton affords any Facility to Remittances to India or to Europe?

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In my Time it did in the greatest Degree; I should have been otherwise often at a Loss; I was in the habit of resorting to their Treasury every Season; and when it happened that they declined to draw either on India or on England, my Constituents and myself were deeply disappointed.

Does not that Difficulty of making Remittances on the Part of Merchants trading to the Port of Canton result from the Circumstance of their not being permitted to make Remittances in Tea to this Country?

Certainly, in a great Degree; having no Investment to provide for Europe, we could only resort to the East India Company for a Remittance in Bills.

Then the Difficulty is created by the Monopoly of the East India Company in the Article of Tea, and is removed only at their Pleasure?

Precisely so, as far as regards Remittances to Europe.

Do you think the Position of Merchants residing at Canton would be better or worse, if the Trade were open, in that Matter of Remittances?

Much better, if the Trade were open and conducted on sound Principles.

What Engagements did the Owners of Country Ships enter into with the Governments of India?

I will speak of Bengal with which I am far best acquainted. Before sailing from Bengal, the Owners of all Country Ships are obliged to give to the Government a Bond, in which Bond they bind themselves under certain Penalties to conform to the Orders and Restrictions of the East India Company's Representatives in China; and on their Arrival in China, the first Thing which is done is to receive the Instructions of the Committee of Supercargoes with regard to their Conduct while in the Port.

Do you happen to have a Copy of that Bond?

It is in my Possession, but my Papers are not within my Reach at this Moment. The Trade between India and China (that is the Country Trade) is a Trade of a Nature which does not seem to be generally understood in this Country, and is merely a Trade of Sufferance.

Is not all Trade a Trade of Sufferance on the Part of the Government, which might prevent it if it pleased?

The Legislature of this Country has given to the British Merchants in India that Trade as a Trade of Sufferance, to be permitted to enjoy it under the Regulations of the East India Company.

The Legislature has given to the East India Company the Power of preventing it?

Yes, I believe so.

W. S. Davidson,
Esq.

Are there any Restrictions placed on the Exports of British Manufactures from India to China—Woollens and Cottons?

In my Time there were; but they have been partially removed of late Years, I have been told.

You cannot state the Date of the Removal of that Restriction?

I think I may say within the last Ten or Twelve Years.

Was that Restriction removed on any Representation made by any Merchants resident in India?

I cannot speak from Knowledge; but I have very little Doubt it was removed at the Time the East India Company ceased to find it much their Interest to enforce it.

Do you happen to know whether Advantage has been taken of the Removal of that Restriction from the Import of British Manufactures into China from India?

I have heard it stated to be so; I have understood that it has been done profitably.

What particular Species of Manufactures?

I really cannot enumerate them.

They have not been to any great Extent?

No, I think not; principally by the Officers of Ships. I should think not to an Extent sufficient much to attract the Attention of the great Houses in India.

What were the chief Articles consigned to you for Sale in China by your Constituents?

The chief Articles were Cotton and Opium; they formed, I think, upwards of Nine Tenths of my Consignments.

What were your Returns?

Besides the Supercargoes Bills on the Indian Government, when they drew, I remitted very largely in Sycee Silver, the Production of China, in Tutenag, and many other Articles.

Any in Dollars?

Sometimes in Dollars. We were occasionally compelled to remit in Dollars, owing to the Difficulty of smuggling the Sycee Silver; but never resorted to that Mode, I think, when we could obtain the Sycee Silver.

The Dollar in China is very much beaten and broken, is it not?

Constantly cut and clipped in all Directions; it almost ceases to be a Dollar when it has circulated in China; there it is weighed as Silver; all Payments are made by Weight.

Is the Dollar, in consequence of this beating and breaking, diminished in intrinsic Value in China?

The Moment the Dollar is clipped it cannot be said to diminish in Value, because it will be taken afterwards just for its Weight in Silver, although it be punched and clipped through and through.

When we hear of the Exchange at so much a Dollar, does that mean the Dollar clipped and broken, as it is in China, and so reduced below the Value of the good Spanish Dollar, or is it in Exchange with the Quantity of Silver which there ought to be in a good Dollar?

Yes, precisely so. What is understood in China by a Dollar is a Piece of Silver which contains Seven Mace Two Candareens, or Seventy-two Hundredth Parts of One Tale, containing a Hundred Candareens.

Is that the intrinsic Value of the Dollar as it leaves the Spanish Mint?

It has no comparative Connection but with other Silver; it is paid in China as the Weight in Silver; and all Coins, whether Spanish, or Portuguese, or German, they are shroffed, as it is called, and ascertained to be Silver, and are then put together, and the whole Mass weighed.

So

So that the Dollar is received by Weight, and not by Tale?

It is sometimes received by Tale; and I will explain this, as it shews the extreme Ignorance of the Chinese in Matters of that Nature. I have had Spanish Dollars bearing the Head of Charles, the former King of Spain, and I have sold those Dollars, and received Dollars bearing the Head of Ferdinand his Successor, Coins precisely of the same Nature, and I have received from Two to Five per Cent. Premium upon the Charles's. When I say the same Description of Coin, I mean they would be the same in London. The Ferdinands may have been a Fraction deteriorated, as they were coined about the Time of the Revolution: the Chinese found out their Mistake, and ceased to carry on that Operation. The Chinese are a People much attached to old Customs; and as the People in the Interior had been long accustomed to the Charles's, they had an Objection to any other, the Spanish Dollar being sometimes found very desirable in the Chinese Provinces, owing to their Want of a current Coin.

The Shroffs in Canton, and in every Part of China, are very attentive to the Quantity of Silver contained in Coins, are they not?

Yes; and very expert in their Business. I do not remember ever losing One Dollar from my Shroffs.

Forgery of Money is very rare, is it not?

Very rare; there can hardly be Forgery in a Country where no Paper Money exists; where all the Gold and Silver Coin is shroffed, and the Money taken by Weight.

Except in the Importation of Cotton, which is likewise imported by the Company, the Country Trade in no respect competes with the Trade of the Company at Canton, does it?

In no respect but in Cotton and Opium.

Is not the Prosperity of that Country Trade essential to the Realization of the Funds in Canton required for the Homeward Investment?

It was constantly in my Time; but it was reciprocal; I was equally anxious to receive their Bills as they were to receive my Dollars.

So that the Company are interested in the Maintenance and Extension of the Country Trade?

Yes. In former Days I have bought largely of the pure Sycee Silver of China, which we considered to contain Ninety-eight Parts of Silver out of the Hundred, and I have paid for it in Spanish Dollars, such as I alluded to before, which only contained Ninety-two Parts of Silver in a Hundred; consequently, the Chinese, for the Facility of having that Coin to send into the Interior, paid Six per Cent. Premium.

Is the Sycee Silver to be obtained in any great Quantities?

As large Quantities as we generally required; but the Difficulty was the shipping it; there were Periods when it could not be smuggled on board. It is in Lumps containing Ten Tales; not a mis-shaped Mass, but cast in a Mould, and a very compact Mass.

From whence does it come?

From the Interior, higher up the Country; it is a Dump rather than a Bar; it comes from their native Mines.

What, in your Opinion, would be the Effect of open Trade on the Price of Teas?

The first Effect would naturally be to raise the Price, because a Number of eager Speculators would rush into the Market; but there is no Reason to suppose that that State of Things could continue; ultimately the Tea Growers and the Tea Merchants would of course be satisfied with remunerating Prices.

Do you think there would be any Difficulty on the Part of the Chinese in furnishing a much larger Supply, to the Extent of many Millions of Pounds of Tea?

I have always understood not; to any Extent that this Country could require.

W. S. Davidson,
Esq.

Do you apprehend that the Americans obtain their Teas at as low a Price as the Company?

I can entertain no doubt of it, now-a-days.

Do you think they obtain Teas of as good Quality?

In my Time I considered decidedly not, nor did they generally seek to do so, as I always understood.

Are Teas as good as the best obtained by the Company to be found in the open Market at Canton?

Certain Parcels may be so, I believe, but certainly not in large Quantities so good as the Company's prime Contract Teas, in my Time.

Is the Difference great in the Price of the new and the old Tea at Canton?

It is very variable; it will depend on many Circumstances. If many new Teas come down, and there is but a small Demand for them, it will tend to keep down the Price of the new Teas as compared with that of the old; but if when the new Teas come down there are many Foreign Ships come in, and there is a great Demand, the new Teas, which will be preferred, will surpass in Price the old Teas greatly.

The new Teas are better than the old?

Yes, I should say decidedly so.

Can you at all estimate the Deterioration which takes place in Green Tea in the Course of Twelve Months?

It will in a great Measure depend on how it is packed, or whether it is exposed to Air or Moisture, I apprehend.

Does Exposure injure it?

It loses its Bloom; it is much injured by being badly kept. The Chinese have a Method, which is constantly practised, of making their old Teas look new, by submitting them to an Operation which is termed firing, and putting a fresh Bloom upon them.

How do they do that?

It is generally understood that while they are exposing them over Heat, a Substance, some say containing a minute Portion of Prussian Blue or other such deleterious Substance, is sprinkled; but I believe that the Substance is not so deleterious as has been thought.

But the Thing is done?

Yes, I have understood it is done constantly. Teas are freshened, and those who do not understand them are sometimes thus imposed upon.

They are taken in by the Sight, not by the Taste?

A Judge would discriminate.

Does that apply to both Sorts?

I think to Greens, in particular.

Do you consider that the Population of China generally is very much interested in the Continuance of the Trade with this Country?

I cannot speak to it generally; but as to the Province of Canton in particular, which is a large, populous, and thriving Province, I should say it is most materially interested; and, consequently, I should think that the Peace of China is in some Degree dependent on the Continuance of the Trade with Foreign Countries.

It is likewise the Interest of Government to maintain a Trade, is it not; the Government deriving large Duties from it?

Decidedly their real Interest.

Is it not likewise the Interest of the Hong Merchants?

Beyond all Doubt.

Under those Circumstances, a very strong Interest existing on the Part of Government, of the Merchants, and the People of China, and smuggling existing to so great an Extent, do you apprehend any Circumstances are likely to arise which could put a Stop to that Trade?

Yes, I do; and I expect it to happen every Year.

Will you state what that is?

I believe there is a Line, although I cannot pretend to be able to define it, beyond which the Chinese Government will not go in adjusting serious Differences, and particularly in regard to Homicide Cases, with any Representative of this Country who has ever yet resided in China.

Do you mean that the Chinese Government would sacrifice the whole Trade rather than not succeed in inflicting on Foreigners trading there some particular Exactions they might desire to enforce?

I mean that they will one Day or other so egregiously commit themselves, that their Pride, their arrogant Self-conceit, and Ignorance will prevent the Adjustment of the existing Dispute until a Negotiation is opened direct between the English Government and theirs.

Do you mean that this complete Prohibition of Trade with Foreigners by the Chinese Government will take place whether the Trade is thrown open or not?

Yes, unavoidably, I think, sooner or later, under the present unwise and undignified System.

Do you imagine it will occur earlier under an open Trade, or the present System?

Earlier under an open Trade, unquestionably.

You mentioned that you did not think the Americans were desirous of purchasing the superior Qualities of Tea; what induces them, in your Opinion, to prefer an inferior Sort of Tea?

They often come in quest of Teas for different Markets, and they will naturally search for a Description of Tea they can sell at such a Price as the Parties for whom it is meant are in the habit of giving or may be disposed to give, either on the Continent of Europe or in America.

You conceive it was not because they could not procure a superior Quality of Tea, but that they find the inferior more marketable and more beneficial to them?

There cannot be supposed to exist any Difficulty in the Americans obtaining the best Article which was to be found in the Markets of China. The Chinese will deal with any one who brings Money or Credit.

Do you think that if the East India Company was to be deprived of its Monopoly in the China Market, it would lead to the Extinction of the Hong Monopoly?

That would not follow, but must depend entirely on the Chinese Government. If the Hong Monopoly be continued with an open Trade to this Country, it will always be getting worse and more vexatious. Indeed I see no Salvation for an open Trade, in the Absence of the Power and Political Influence of the East India Company, without a previous Understanding between the Two Governments.

When you said there was a certain Line which the Chinese Government was in the habit of adhering to, did you mean to say that they pursued a certain System of Government which has never changed within the Memory of Man, and that you thought was not likely to be changed?

Precisely so; and the Line to which I alluded is of course a Line that I cannot pretend to define; I do not know where that Point is; but I believe that one of these Days we shall pass it, and then this Country will be compelled to do what it has never yet done, negotiate direct and vigorously, and not through the Medium of complimentary Embassies; we might send Fifty merely complimentary Embassies, and they would do no good, but rather Mischief, in my Opinion.

What is the Embassy you would recommend?

Such an one as this great Country is wont to send to all other Countries excepting China, a manly Proposition of amicable, reasonable, and mutually advantageous Intercourse.

W. S. Davidson,
Esq.

If they refused to receive the Ambassador, what would you propose to be done?

Give up drinking Tea, or else enforce the Reception of so just an Intercourse.

Do you know any thing of any contraband Trade being carried on in British Ships to other Parts?

Country Ships have gone on the Coast, particularly with Opium, but they have seldom met with Success.

They have gone to Amoy and Parts North of Canton?

Yes, they have; but it is seldom resorted to now, I believe; the Opium Trade is now so comfortably circumstanced, they do not require any Improvement.

Supposing the Trade immediately with China to be suspended, do not you think that this Country might be supplied with the Quantity of Tea wanted through Singapore and other Ports?

The Thing is possible, but I should think fraught with Difficulty.

Do not the Chinese carry on a large Trade with the Eastern Islands?

Yes, in Junks, they carry on a large Trade.

Those Junks convey Tea?

Yes; but whether the Chinese Government would consent to see England supplied with Tea in that Manner, I cannot say, and certainly they would tax it most severely if they did.

Did those Persons for whom you were Agent while in China send any Quantity of British Manufactures into China?

No, not in my Time, any great Quantity.

Are you of opinion that if the Monopoly was at an End, there would be an increased Demand for British Manufactures in that Country?

Unquestionably an increased Demand would grow up; enterprising Manufacturers in this Country would send Manufactures, and lose a great deal of Money, probably, in the first instance, but that would create a Taste, and I have no doubt that vast Quantities of British Manufactures would be sent ultimately.

What sort of Manufactures do you think most likely to be sent?

I should think that the Articles now sent would be sent on a larger Scale; Cloths, Metals, Cotton Goods, and Sundries.

Has the Quantity that has been imported into that Country by the Americans given the Chinese an increased Taste for those Manufactures?

I really hope so.

Are you aware whether that is so or not?

It is some Years since I quitted China; I cannot doubt that it has done so, however, and I have heard often that such is the Fact.

Have you made any Calculations as to the Profit or Loss of the Trade carried on by the East India Company with China?

No, I have made no Calculations in particular, but I have inspected for many Years the Accounts of the East India Company in the most authentic Shape.

Have you collected from them the Extent of Profit which the East India Company derive from that Trade?

On that Point I beg to state that I resided some Years in China in conducting a large Business; I have visited all the East India Company's Presidencies in India; and I can with Truth, as I do with Pleasure, bear the strongest Testimony to the liberal Manner in which their Government is conducted, which seemed in my Time to be universally considered. As a Sovereign Power, they are all that can be desired for those Countries; but in their Capacity of Merchants, from the most attentive Perusal that I can give their Accounts, I am sorry to say that I think it has been a complete Failure, and that they have reaped from their Trade, as a whole,
nothing

nothing but Losses to their own Corporation and to this Country at large. During my whole Residence in China I can with Truth say that I cannot call to mind an Instance in which the Company's Representatives there have proved recreant in their sacred Duties towards British Trade in general; not even inattentive, far less inimical to its Interests.

*W. S. Davidson,
Esq.*

With regard to the Profit and Loss from the Manner in which they conduct their Trade, do you conceive they do that in a Manner equally advantageous to themselves that private Individuals would conduct the same Trade?

I am sorry to say I do not think so, nor do I think that any public Body, constituted as the East India Company is, can possibly compete with the quiet Enterprize and economical Management of the intelligent and industrious individual Merchants of this Country; and this is nothing but the unavoidable Result of such a Combination of Circumstances.

Have you formed an Opinion as to the Necessity for such an Extent of an Establishment for the Conduct of their Commercial Affairs as is kept up by the Company in China?

The Expence of the Company's Establishment in China is not great; I believe it to be not much more than what the Commission would be payable to myself or other private Agents in the Conduct of so extensive a Business.

You think the Company do not pay more for the Conduct of their Commercial Business in China than private Individuals would do?

Very little, I think.

Then what is the Difference between their Management and that of private Individuals?

The Expence of all their numerous Establishments in all Parts of the East. In one of about Twenty-five Persons, as in Canton, it does not much signify how expensively those few Persons may be fed or housed; but the East India Company have such huge Establishments throughout India as must have eaten up all their Commercial Profits, and they have done so, I fear greatly, besides a good deal of the Territorial Revenue.

Supposing the whole of their Commerce abandoned, except that to China, do you think that Trade is as economically managed as a Trade of that Magnitude in the Hands of Individuals would be?

I am of opinion that there would not be found to exist a great deal of Difference.

Does your Answer apply to the Establishment at Canton only, or their Manner of building Ships?

I speak of their Establishment at Canton only.

Do you take into your Consideration the large Ships, the Freight they pay, and the sort of Goods they export to China?

By no means. I only speak of the Sale in China of their Imports, and the Expence attendant on the providing and loading of the Homeward-bound Car-goes, and the Maintenance of their Servants on the Spot.

And the Purchase of their Teas?

Yes; the Purchase of Teas is included.

You conceive that Individuals carrying on such a Trade would have Advantages over a Company in the Circumstance of Freight, and the other Objects alluded to?

Very great.

Do you see any Necessity for the very expensive Ships the East India Company equip for the Purpose of conducting their Trade?

By no means.

Do you see any Advantage resulting from the Employment of large Ships in preference to small ones?

Not now-a-days; there was a Time when it might be of Importance to this Country; but not in the present improved State of the World.

W. S. Davidson,
Esq.

Is there any Advantage, in respect of the Duties charged by the Chinese, between large and small Ships?

Yes, there has been found to be an Advantage pro tanto, but that is not sufficient to counterbalance the many Disadvantages.

You have stated that if the Trade to China were thrown open, British Manufactures might be forced into that Country; how can that take place to any Extent in the Face of Exactions which you say would be the necessary Consequence of the Removal of the Influence of the East India Company as a chartered Body?

I meant to say that that would take place at first on the opening of the Trade in consequence of the reckless Disposition of the Manufacturers and Merchants of this Country, when any new Market is opened, in sending their Goods without just Regard to whether they shall obtain profitable Returns or otherwise; but I cannot take upon myself to say when it might stop, in consequence of the Exactions of the Chinese, or of Losses on the Part of the English Speculators.

In your Opinion it would not be a permanent Increase of Trade?

Certainly not, if the Trade were to be opened without previous Negotiation. The Chinese would commence with small Exactions, and they would go on encroaching every Year 'till they had destroyed the Trade altogether, and this would necessarily produce the Ruin of Thousands in this Country, I am confident.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Mr. T. Mills.

Mr. THOMAS MILLS is called in, and examined as follows:

You are a Tea Dealer?

I am.

You are a Wholesale Dealer?

I am.

How long have you been engaged in the Trade?

Sixteen Years.

Have you regularly attended the Sales of the East India Company during that Time?

I have.

Did you attend the last Sale?

I did.

Did the Teas of the Company sell at the last Sale generally at Prices beyond those of the previous Sales?

They did.

Will you state generally the sort of Teas upon which the Advance has taken place beyond the preceding Sale?

The Boheas sold at an Advance of about Six per Cent., the low Congous Five per Cent., Twankays Four per Cent., and Hysons Ten per Cent.

Will you state what you consider to be the Causes of that Advance?

The Causes are generally considered to be the Reports in circulation respecting the Difference existing between the Company's Factory at Canton and the Chinese Authorities; also the known Inadequacy of the Company's Stock of some particular kinds of Teas, and the Uncertainty of further Arrivals.

Will you explain what you mean by the Inadequacy of the Company's Stock—in what respect you consider it inadequate?

In Boheas they have a Quantity equal only to about Two Sales, in Hysons they have not Two Sales, and in Souchongs and Pekoes they have none.

Did the Advance take place more particularly on those Teas in which you suppose them to have an inadequate Supply?

Yes; to the greatest Extent on the Boheas and the Hysons, of which they have not the same Stock as of other Teas.

Is

Is not the Company considered to be obliged, under the Act of Parliament, to keep a Stock equal to One Year's Consumption?

I believe it is considered to be the Requirement of the Charter that they should have a Stock equal to the Average of Four Quarters Consumption.

You do not consider, however, that, in all Descriptions of Teas that are consumed in England, they have a Stock equal to the Average of Four Quarters?

Of those Four Sorts they obviously have not; of Souchongs there were none in the last Sale, and of another Description of Tea, the Pekoe, they have sold none since June 1828.

By what Classes of Persons are those Teas to which you have alluded consumed?

The Boheas are consumed by the lower Classes—the manufacturing Classes; the Souchongs, the Pekoes, and Hysons, by the higher Classes.

You consider the Supply to be more deficient in that Description of Tea which is most extensively consumed by the middling and lower Classes?

Yes.

Will you state generally what are the Varieties of Teas which are in regular Demand in England?

Of Black Teas there are Boheas, Congous, Campois, Souchongs, Pekoes, Padrae, Caper, Tetsong, and Ancoy; and of Green Teas, Twankays, Hyson Skins, Hyson, Young Hyson, and Gunpowder.

Do the Company supply the Demand in all those Descriptions of Teas?

The greatest Variety is supplied by the Private Trade; the Company supply only a small Quantity in Varieties, though they supply the greatest Quantity in Bulk.

By the Private Trade you mean to refer to the Trade of the Officers of the Company?

Yes.

Can you state whether the Varieties of Tea you have described, and for which a Demand exists here beyond the Supply of the Company, is to be obtained in other Parts of Europe?

I cannot speak to that Question generally; I have been Abroad Twice, and certainly the Pekoe Tea there is much finer than that imported here.

To what particular Part of the Continent do you refer when you say you have found it finer?

To Holland and Germany.

Is the Sale Price of Tea generally in advance upon the Upset Price at the Company's Sales?

In almost all Cases; occasionally Teas have not fetched the Upset Price; then they have been withdrawn at that Sale, and put up at the succeeding Sale without an Upset Price; but in most Cases the Selling Price is a very considerable Advance on the Upset Price.

Is there a great proportionable Difference sometimes between the Sale Price and the Upset Price in different Sorts of Tea?

Very considerable; Congou Tea put up at 1s. 8d. often fetches 2s. 5d., and other Congou Tea put up at 2s. 1d. has fetched 3s. 7d.

If the Upset Price is the Cost Price, how do you explain that great relative Difference between the Cost and Sale Price in different Kinds of Tea?

I should attribute it to the Inadequacy of Supply; the Selling Price would be nearer the Upset Price if the Supply was adequate to the Demand.

Do you conceive that the Extent of Demand for each Description of Tea can be pretty well presumed from the Experience of the Company's Sales, so as to enable their Agents to provide for it in proportion to the Demand?

The Company could declare a greater Quantity for Sale if they chose; the Quantity declared for Sale is perfectly optional with them; it is announced about Six Weeks previous to the Sale, and entirely depends upon their own Will and Pleasure.

Mr. T. Mills.

Can they have any Interest in not meeting the Demand in the same Proportion for each Description of Tea which exists, supposing they have been properly provided with Stock in China?

It is impossible for me to know the Reasons which induce the Company to regulate the Supply of Tea.

You conceive, however, that they have Reasons, independent of the State of their Stock as supplied from Canton, for increasing or diminishing the Quantity they expose to Sale?

Yes.

Do the Inspectors of the Company fix any particular Mark to the Tea?

Yes; the Company not only fix the Putting-up Price of their Teas, but they also fix the Quality of their Teas, and they sell them by Characters. These are the printed Characters of the Company by which they declare the Quality of their own Goods.

(Statement handed in.)

Do not they sell by Sample?

Yes; but they attach a Character to the Tea, declaring their Opinion of its Quality.

You, having taken a Sample, form your own Opinion of the Quality of the Tea?

Yes.

Is not a Break of Tea one of the Terms used in the Trade?

Yes.

Explain what that Term means?

A Break of Tea consists of a certain Number of Chests of the same Character and Quality, varying in Quantity from Two hundred to a Thousand Chests.

Do the Characters so affixed to each Break of Tea correspond with the Upset Price?

No, certainly not; the Characters are frequently lower for the 2s. 1d. than for the 1s. 8d. Teas.

The List of the Characters delivered in by the Witness is read,
and is as follows:

TEA declared for Sale on Tuesday the 1st June 1830: Prompt the 27th August 1830.

				lbs.
Bohea	-	-	-	1,400,000
Congou, Campoi, and Souchong	-	-	-	5,100,000
Twankay and Hyson Skin	-	-	-	1,150,000
Hyson	-	-	-	250,000

Including Private Trade - 7,900,000

EAST INDIA COMPANY'S CHARACTERS OF BLACK TEAS.

Break.	Fol.	Tare.	Chests.	Bohea, at 1s. 5d. per lb.	
		lb s.		Quarter Chests.	
1	579	21	210	Middling good Bohea, Congou kind of Leaf.	
2	581	20	210	Ditto	ditto.
3	582	21	210	Ditto	ditto.
4	583	22	248	Ditto	on the Congou kind of Leaf.
5	584	21	210	Ditto	Congou kind of Leaf.
				Half Chests.	
6	586	28-29	96	Preferable to ordinary Congou.	
7	587	28-29	85	Ditto	ditto as 7 Br. M.S. 1830.
8	588	29-30	910	Ordinary Congou, or preferable.	
9	596	28-29	200	Preferable to ordinary Congou.	
10	598	28-29	902	Ditto	ditto.

Break.	Fol.	Tare.	Chests.	Bohea, at 1s. 5d. per lb. — <i>continued.</i>	
		<i>lbs.</i>		Large Chests.	
11	607	47-48	679	Middling good Bohea,	Congou kind of Leaf.
12	613	47-48	373	Ditto -	ditto.
13	617	48-49	258	Ditto -	ditto.
14	619	47-48	680	Ditto -	on the Congou kind of Leaf.
15	626	46-47	260	Ditto -	Congou kind.
16	629	47-49	260	Ditto -	Congou kind of Leaf.
17	631	48-49	680	Ditto -	on the Congou kind of Leaf.
18	638	47-48	260	Ditto -	Congou kind of Leaf.
19	640	48-49	199	Ditto -	ditto.
20	642	48-49	680	Good middling Bohea,	ditto.
21	649	47-48	270	Ditto -	ditto, as 15 Br. M.S. 1830.
				In Quarter Congou Chests.	
22	651	24	606	Good ordinary Tea, even palish mixt Leaf,	rather burnt.
23	655	24	157	Ditto -	ditto - little burnt, as 22 Br. M.S. 1830.
24	656	24	1,200	Preferable to ordinary Congou.	
25	662	24	619	Ditto -	ditto.
26	665	24	304	Ditto -	ditto.
27	667	24	329	Ditto -	ditto - as 19 Br. M.S. 1830.
				CONGOU, at 1s. 8d. per lb.	
1	673	23	559	But middling Congou, mixt Leaf,	little new.
2	676	25	613	Ditto -	mixt Leaf kind.
3	679	24	653	Ditto -	rather coarse, little new.
4	683	24	384	Ditto -	ditto - ditto, as 1 Br. M.S. 1830.
5	685	23	560	Ditto -	mixt Leaf kind, little new.
6	688	23	506	Ditto -	rather coarse and rather new.
7	690	24	605	Ditto -	rather coarse, little new.
8	694	23-24	416	Ditto -	rather coarse, new.
9	696	24	598	Ditto -	rather coarse and rather new.
10	699	24	590	Ditto -	ditto - ditto.
11	703	24	523	Ditto -	coarse and rather old.
12	706	23	400	Ditto -	rather new.
13	708	24	605	Ditto -	rather coarse, little new.
14	712	23-24	612	Ditto -	rather coarse, a little strong.
15	714	24	659	Ditto -	rather coarse, little new.
16	718	23	436	Ditto -	coarse, little new.
17	720	24-25	226	Ditto -	rather coarse and rather new.
18	722	24	630	Ditto -	rather coarse and new.
19	724	24	606	Ditto -	rather coarse and rather new.
20	728	24	543	Ditto -	little fresh.
21	730	24	622	Ditto -	rather new, little burnt.
22	734	24	610	Ditto -	rather coarse and rather new.
23	737	24	451	Ditto -	rather coarse, little new.
24	740	24	550	Ditto -	rather new.
25	742	24	545	Ditto -	rather coarse, little new.
26	745	24	606	Ditto -	rather coarse and rather new.
27	749	23	389	Ditto -	rather coarse, little new, as 22 Br. S.S. 1829.
28	750	24	624	Ditto -	little coarse.
29	754	23	637	Ditto -	rather coarse, new.
30	757	24	616	Ditto -	rather coarse and rather new.
31	760	23	634	Ditto -	rather coarse, little strong.
32	763	23	590	Ditto -	mixt Leaf kind.
33	766	24	299	Ditto -	rather coarse.
				CONGOU, at 2s. 1d. per lb.	
34	769	24-25	628	But middling Congou, mixt blackish Leaf.	
35	772	25	617	Ditto -	ditto.
36	776	24	618	Ditto -	ditto.
37	779	25	617	Ditto -	mixt blackish Tea kind of Leaf.
38	783	25	604	Ditto -	blackish mixt Tea kind of Leaf.
39	786	23	573	Ditto -	blackish Leaf, rather strong.
40	789	23	605	Ditto -	ditto - ditto.
41	792	24	467	Ditto -	mixt Leaf, as 81 Br. M.S. 1830.
42	795	24	564	Ditto -	blackish rather mixt Leaf, rather strong.
43	798	25	299	Preferable to but middling Tea, blackish Leaf,	Pekoe kind.

Mr. T. Mills.

Break.	Fol.	Tare.	Chests.		
		<i>lbs</i>		CONGOU, at 2s. 1d. per lb. — <i>continued.</i>	
44	800	24	299	But middling Tea or pref., blackish Leaf, little Pekoe kind.	
45	802	22-23	111	But middling Congou, smallish Leaf.	
46	802	24	616	Ditto -	blackish on the wiry Leaf.
47	806	24	610	Ditto -	mixt Leaf.
48	809	23	597	Ditto -	on the mixt wiry Leaf.
49	812	23	588	Ditto -	mixt Leaf.
50	815	25	615	Ditto -	mixt blackish Tea kind of Leaf.
51	819	23-24	594	Ditto -	mixt blackish Leaf.
52	822	23-24	526	Ditto -	blackish mixt Leaf, little strong.
53	825	25	619	Ditto -	blackish wiry Leaf, little Pekoe kind.
54	828	24	621	Ditto -	mixt blackish Leaf, rather fresh.
55	831	23	594	Ditto -	smallish mixt blackish Leaf.
56	834	24	283	But middling Congou.	
57	836	25	587	Ditto -	blackish mixt Leaf.
58	839	24	600	Ditto -	mixt Leaf.
59	842	24	600	Ditto -	mixt Leaf, rather fresh, little new.
60	846	22	592	Ditto -	smallish blackish Leaf.
61	849	25	595	Ditto -	mixt blackish Tea kind of Leaf.
62	852	23	599	Ditto -	mixt Leaf.
				One-eighth Chests.	
63	856	13	616	But middling Congou, mixt blackish Leaf.	
				Quarter Chests.	
64	858	24	594	But middling Congou, mixt blackish Leaf kind.	
65	861	23-24	611	Ditto -	mixt blackish Leaf.
66	865	25	610	Ditto -	a little strong.
67	868	23	488	Ditto -	mixt Leaf, as 59 Br. M.S. 1830.
68	871	25	619	Ditto -	on the mixt blackish Leaf kind.
69	874	24	607	Ditto -	rather coarse.
70	878	24	621	Ditto -	rather coarse, little strong.
71	881	24	603	Ditto -	- ditto - ditto.
72	885	23	612	Ditto -	smallish mixt Leaf.
73	888	24	596	Ditto -	mixt Leaf.
74	891	23	576	Ditto -	mixt Leaf, rather new.
75	894	23-24	583	Ditto -	mixt Leaf, little new.
76	897	24	630	Ditto -	little new.
77	901	22	448	Ditto -	as 72 Br. M.S. 1830.
78	904	24	583	Ditto -	mixt Leaf.
79	907	23	579	Ditto -	rather coarse and rather new.
80	910	23	368	Ditto -	rather coarse, little strong.
81	912	23	623	Ditto -	rather coarse and rather new.
82	916	24	581	But middling Tea, Pekoe kind.	
				One-eighth Chests.	
83	919	14	1,042	But middling Congou, mixt blackish Leaf.	
				Quarter Chests.	
84	924	24	638	But middling Congou.	
85	927	24	614	Ditto -	rather coarse.
86	930	24	563	Ditto -	mixt Leaf, rather fresh.
87	933	24	562	Ditto -	mixt Leaf.
88	936	24	588	Ditto -	rather coarse, little strong.
89	939	25	602	Ditto -	mixt Tea kind of Leaf.
90	942	23	621	Ditto -	blackish wiry Leaf.
91	946	24	593	Ditto -	mixt Leaf, little new.
92	949	24	587	Ditto -	mixt blackish Leaf.
93	952	24	575	Ditto -	on the mixt blackish Leaf.
94	955	24	926	But middling Congou.	
95	960	24	598	Ditto -	mixt blackish Leaf kind.
96	963	25	604	Ditto -	mixt blackish Tea kind of Leaf.
97	966	25	201	Ditto -	mixt blackish Leaf.
98	967	24	603	Ditto -	mixt Leaf, little new.
99	970	24	1,019	Ditto -	on the mixt blackish Leaf.
100	976	24	580	Ditto -	rather coarse.
101	979	23	643	Ditto -	on the blackish Leaf.
102	982	24	100	Ditto -	on the dull blackish Leaf.

Break.	Fol.	Tare.	Chests.	
		<i>lbs.</i>		
103	983	24	220	CONGOU, at 1s. 8d. per lb.
104	984	23	162	But middling Tea, rather coarse, Campoi kind.
105	985	23-24	211	Ditto - ditto - ditto.
106	986	24	206	Ditto - rather coarse, little new, Campoi kind.
107	987	23-24	163	Ditto - ditto - Campoi kind.
108	989	24	238	Ditto - rather fresh and new, Campoi kind.
109	990	23	239	Ditto - coarse and new, Campoi kind.
110	991	23	239	Ditto - coarse, Campoi kind.
111	993	23	236	Ditto - rather coarse, Campoi kind.
				Ditto - ditto - ditto.
				CAMPOI, at 2s. 4d. per lb.
1	994	24	206	Preferable to but middling Tea, mixt Leaf.
2	995	24	157	Preferable to but middling Tea.
3	996	24	218	But middling Tea.
4	997	22	296	Ditto - mixt Leaf.
5	999	24	199	But middling Tea.
6	1007	23-24	120	Ditto - or preferable, as 11 Br. M.S. 1830.
7	1008	23-24	202	But middling Tea.
8	1009	24	219	Ditto.
9	1010	23	48	Ditto - or preferable, as 5 Br. M.S. 1829.
				At per lb.
—	1,000	23-24	96	Preferable to but middling Tea.
—	1,000	23-24	173	Ditto - ditto.
—	1,001	24	173	But middling Tea, or preferable.
—	1,002	24	199	But middling Tea.
—	1,003	23	218	Ditto - or preferable.
—	1,005	23	174	Preferable to but middling Tea, mixt Leaf, fresh.
—	1,006	22	222	But middling Tea.
—	1,010	23-24	78	Ditto - or preferable.
—	1,011	23	229	But middling to middling Tea, mixt Leaf, fresh.

(Mr. Mills.) This Paper contains a Comparison of the Character and Prices of some of the Teas sold at the June Sale, shewing that the Company's Upset Price did not correspond with the Company's Characters.

The same is delivered in, and read, and is as follows :

COMPARISON of the CHARACTERS and PRICES of different BREAKS of CONGOU,
sold at June Sale 1830.

CONGOU.

The 69th Break } Put up at 2s. 1d. per lb., have the same Character as the 28th Break
85th Break } and 35th Break, put up at 1s. 8d., and are lower in Character than
100th Break } the 31st Break, put up at 1s. 8d.

The 74th Break } Put up at 2s. 1d. per lb., have the same Character as the 1st Break, put
75th Break } up at 1s. 8d., and are lower in Character than the 6th, 7th, 9th, 10th,
91st Break } 11th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 22d, 23d, 25th,
26th, 27th, 28th, 30th, 31st, 32d, 33d Breaks; in all 23 Breaks, which are
put up at 1s. 8d. per lb.

The 76th Break, put up at 2s. 1d., has a Character lower than the 2d, 3d, 4th, 6th, 7th,
9th, 10th, 11th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 17th, 19th, 20th, 22d, 23d, 25th, 26th,
27th, 28th, 30th, 31st, 32d, and 33d Breaks; in all 24 Breaks, which are put
up at 1s. 8d. per lb.

The 79th Break } Put up at 2s. 1d., have the same Character as the 6th, 9th, 10th, 17th,
81st Break } 19th, 22d, and 26th Breaks, put up at 1s. 8d. per lb., and are lower in
Character than the 11th, 14th, 28th, 31st, and 33d; in all 5 Breaks, put up
at 1s. 8d. per lb.

The 80th Break } Put up at 2s. 1d., same Character as the 14th and 31st Breaks, which
88th Break } are put up at 1s. 8d. per lb.

Mr. T. Mills.

How do you explain that Difference ?

The Upset Price is taken to be a remunerating Price, which consists of the Cost of the Teas in China, and the Expence of bringing them Home. It appears, therefore, obvious, that the Teas put up at 2s. 1d. must have cost the Company more in Canton than the Teas put at 1s. 8d.; but their Inspectors here declare that the Tea put up at 2s. 1d. is not so good as that put up at 1s. 8d.; there is therefore an obvious Difference of Opinion between their Inspectors in this Country and their Factory in Canton.

You conceive that the Factory of the Company at Canton do not habitually discriminate the Sale Price of the respective Qualities of Tea that they send to England ?

The declared Opinion of their Inspectors in this Country is obviously at variance with the Opinion of the Factory at Canton. It is for every Person to judge by whom the more correct Opinion is formed.

According to your Opinion, which is the most correct ?

I should rather state the Opinion of Purchasers collectively; and certainly the Opinions of the Trade in this Country would more agree, though they would in some respects differ with the Inspectors here, than with the Opinion of the Factory Abroad, judging from the Prices at which the Teas sell; the Fact of some of the 2s. 1d. Teas not finding any Purchaser, and 1s. 8d. Teas selling as high as 2s. 5d., would argue against the Judgment of the Factory at Canton.

Is it not the Fact that Teas rejected at one Sale, and put up at a subsequent Sale, without any Price, have frequently fetched a higher Price than Teas put up at the same Sale at the Price at which they were originally put up at the previous Sale ?

If Prices have generally advanced, Teas which were rejected at 2s. 1d. at a former Sale, and which would have found Customers at 2s. 0½d., if the Prices have advanced from the Company diminishing the Quantity, would fetch the Prices at which they were rejected on a former Sale.

What are the Descriptions of Tea for which you conceive there might possibly be an increased Demand in England, were the Supply adequate ?

I should say generally that the Consumption of Tea might be materially increased. I do not myself see why the Consumption of Tea should not keep Pace with the Consumption of Coffee. The Consumption of Coffee, since 1824, has increased above 130 per Cent.; the Consumption of Tea within that Time has increased only 26 per Cent.

What is the particular Quality of Tea in which you conceive there is the greatest Opening for an increased Consumption ?

I should think the lowest Teas and the finest Teas are the Two Descriptions of Tea of which the greatest Increase in Quantity might be sold; but I think generally the Consumption of Tea might be greatly increased if the Supply was increased.

Have you seen the Return from the East India House, in which the Average Prime Cost of Tea at Canton is stated for the last Six Years ?

Yes, I have.

Have you compared that with the Price at which the Company have sold those Teas ?

I have.

What is the general Inference you have drawn as to the Profit of the Company from those Sales upon that Comparison ?

I compared the Average Cost Price at Canton in 1828-29 with the Sale Prices of the last Sale; probably some of the identical Teas purchased in 1828-29 were then sold. On the Bohea the Advance upon the lowest was Ninety-two per Cent., and upon the highest One hundred and forty per Cent.; on the lowest Congou, put up at 1s. 8d., the Advance was Seventy-five per Cent., and the highest Ninety-nine per Cent., and on Congous put up at 2s. 1d. the Advance upon the lowest was Seventy-eight per Cent., and upon the highest One hundred and ninety-five per Cent.; on Twankay put up at 2s. 2d. the Advance

Advance on the lowest was Sixty-six per Cent., and on the highest One hundred and fifty-three per Cent. ; and on Hysons put up at 3s. to 3s. 9d. the Advance on the lowest was Seventy-nine per Cent., and on the highest One hundred and forty-one per Cent.

Mr. T. Mills.

The Witness delivers in the Statement, which is read, and is as follows :

STATEMENT of ADVANCE on TEAS sold at the JUNE SALE 1830 above the Average Cost Prices of 1828-29 at Canton, as stated in Returns made by the East India Company, dated 17th March 1830.

DESCRIPTION.	AVERAGE COST PRICE at Canton, 1828-29.	PUTTING-UP PRICE, June Sale 1830.	SELLING PRICES, June Sale 1830.	ADVANCE PER CENT. on Average Cost Price at Canton.
Bohea -	0/9 512	1/5 {	Lowest 1/ 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ Highest 1/10 $\frac{3}{4}$	About 92 per cent. 91 86 140 — 139 17
Congou -	1/2 587	1/8 {	Lowest 2/ 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Highest 2/ 5	75 — 74 81 99 — 98 80
Congou -	1/2 587	2/1 {	Lowest 2/ 2 Highest 3/ 7	78 — 78 24 195 — 194 78
Twankay -	1/3 810	2/2 {	Lowest 2/ 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ Highest 3/ 4	66 — 66 03 153 — 153 —
Hyson -	2/2 263	3/ and 3/9 {	Lowest 3/11 Highest 5/ 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	79 — 78 96 141 — 141 40

Can you, from that Statement, draw an Inference as to the Net Profit of the Company here upon the whole Sale?

I have made a Calculation of the Advance on Teas, sold at the East India Company's Sale in Season 1830, above the Putting-up Price.

What Notice have you taken in that Paper of Teas rejected at former Sale brought in again?

There were no rejected Congous put up at the last Sale ; there were a few Twankays, which I have omitted ; they sold, in consequence of the Deficiency of Supply, at a considerable Advance.

The Paper is delivered in, and is read as follows :

CALCULATION of the ADVANCE on TEAS, sold at the EAST INDIA COMPANY'S SALE in June 1830, above the Putting-up Price.

	£	s.	d.
On Bohea Teas, put up at 1s. 5d. per lb. - - - -	15,859	15	9
On Congou Teas, put up at 1s. 8d. per lb. - £40,353 18 7			
On Congou Teas, put up at 2s. 1d. per lb. - 43,289 7 1			
On Campoi Teas, put up at 2s. 4d. per lb. - 117 16 8			
On Twankay Teas, put up at 2s. 2d. per lb. - 11,080 16 1			
On Hyson Skin Teas, put up at 2s. 3d. per lb. 749 14 4			
On Hyson Teas, put up at 3s. per lb. - 3,301 11 2			
On Hyson Teas, put up at 3s. 9d. per lb. - 6,184 18 5			
	£105,078	2	4
Lot Money - 1,240 0 0			
	106,318	2	4
Profit to the East India Company above the Putting-up Price -	£122,177	18	1
Add 96 per Cent. Duty on Bohea Teas - - - -	15,225	7	7
Ad valorem Duty on the other Sorts of Teas - - - -	105,078	2	4
Cost to the Consumers above the Putting-up Price -	£242,481	8	0

Mr. T. Mills.

Have you any Means of knowing what the Advance per Cent. is in the Price of Teas sold by the Americans in the United States and on the Continent of Europe beyond the original Price of those Teas at Canton?

No, I have not.

The Net Profit then, that we are to infer the Company derive from their Sale in June 1830, to which your Calculation refers, was £122,177 18s. 1d.?

Yes; that is the Calculation of the Profit above the Putting-up Price.

Are you of opinion that the Profit is less or greater than in the corresponding Sales of the preceding Year?

I should hardly venture to give an Opinion upon that, for the Prices of Teas vary greatly; Tea is lower than it used to be, though it has declined in Value much less than many other Articles of Consumption.

Are you aware of any Reason why that Sale should have differed particularly from other Sales?

Yes. I think that the Report in Circulation, and the Inadequacy of the Stock, had an Effect.

Will you state whether those Descriptions of Teas which you have represented to be furnished exclusively by Private Traders, under the Sanction of the Company, are to be obtained as regularly as the Company's Teas?

The Ships from Canton arrive only once in the Year, and the Private Trade always sell their Teas at the ensuing Sale after their Arrival; the Sale of those Teas, therefore, generally takes place in June; but some of the Ships arrive late, and then the Sale of the Remainder of that Private Trade takes place in September; but the Supply of that Description of Tea must always be purchased at those Two Sales for the rest of the Year.

The Supply cannot be so regularly depended upon of that Description of Teas as the Supply of those Teas furnished by the Company?

No. I will beg to state the Description of Teas for which we depend entirely on the Supply of the Private Trade; the Company do sometimes import Souchong and Pekoe, but they have now none to sell. The other Sorts are Padree, Caper, Tetsong, and Ancoy, of Black Teas; and Young Hyson and Gunpowder; of Green Teas; those are among the finest Description of Hyson sold.

Are they of a finer Quality than any imported by the Company?

Certainly. They have only once in my Time imported Young Hyson, and once Gunpowder; the Gunpowder fetches a higher Price than any of the Company's Teas.

Can you state what are the Rates charged by the Company for disposing of Teas imported by private Individuals?

They charge their own Officers an ad-valorem Duty of about Twenty-six per Cent. As they are sold at the East India House, of course the Company know the Price they obtain, and they take off a Sum amounting to Twenty-six per Cent.

Are those Rates greater or less than they charge for other Goods?

They are very different.

Can you state the Difference?

On Silk, which is, upon the Average, Threelfold the Value of Teas, they charge only One and a Half per Cent.; and on Spices, which are about the same Value as Tea, they charge only One and a Quarter. This is their own printed Schedule of Rates to which I am referring.

The same is delivered in, and is read as follows:

SCHEDULE of RATES to be charged by the East India Company for the Management and Sale of Goods imported by Private Merchants.

Mr. T. Mills.

For Wharfage, Landing, Cartage, Housing, Coopering, Tarring, mending Packages if broken by ordinary Ship's Breakage, enlarging Indigo or other Chests when necessary, Weighing, shewing to the Buyers, printing Catalogues, selling at the Sales at the East India House, or shewing and Attendance in case the Importer shall sell the Goods by Private Sale, and delivering: calculated on the Sale Value of Goods sold at the Company's Sales, and on the estimated Value of Goods sold by Private Bargain.					For Warehouse Rent, per Week, payable upon each Parcel of a Ship's Cargo from the Day on which the first Parcel of Goods by that Ship shall be delivered into the Company's Warehouses.							
					N. B.—On Goods sold at the Company's Sales, the Importer is to pay the Weekly Rent until the Prompt Day*, from which Day the Buyer is to pay it.							
					Rates per Cent.							
					£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		
Aloes -	-	-	-	-	2	10	0	0	0	10	per Ton.	
Alum -	-	-	-	-	4	0	0	0	0	5	per Ton.	
Annatto -	-	-	-	-	3	0	0	0	0	10	per Ton.	
Anniseed -	-	-	-	-	4	0	0	0	0	1½	per Chest.	
Arrack and other Spirits -	-	-	-	-	2	0	0	{	0	1	0	per Leaguer.
									0	0	8	per Butt.
									0	0	6	per Pipe or Puncheon.
Arrow Root -	-	-	-	-	4	0	0	0	0	7½	per Ton.	
Arsenic, Hartall, and Orpiment -	-	-	-	-	5	0	0	0	1	3	per Ton.	
Assafoetida -	-	-	-	-	3	0	0	0	0	10	per Ton.	
Bark -	-	-	-	-	4	0	0	0	0	10	per Ton.	
Bees Wax -	-	-	-	-	3	0	0	0	0	10	per Ton.	
Betel Nuts -	-	-	-	-	4	0	0	0	0	5	per Ton.	
Borax and Tincal -	-	-	-	-	3	0	0	0	0	10	per Ton.	
Callicoes, White, Printed, or Dyed (vide Piece Goods).												
Cambogium -	-	-	-	-	2	0	0	0	0	10	per Ton.	
Camphire -	-	-	-	-	2	0	0	0	1	3	per Ton.	
Canes and Sticks, 1s. 6d. per Hundred, } in Tale -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	2	per Thousand.	
Cardemoms -	-	-	-	-	2	0	0	0	1	3	per Ton.	
Cassia Buds -	-	-	-	-	2	10	0	0	0	10	per Ton.	
Cassia Lignea -	-	-	-	-	4	0	0	0	1	3	per Ton.	
Castor Beans -	-	-	-	-	7	0	0	0	0	5	per Ton.	
Castor Oil, in Duppors or Jars -	-	-	-	-	3	10	0	0	1	3	per Ton.	
Castor Oil, in Bottles -	-	-	-	-	7	0	0	0	0	1	per Chest.	
Cayenne Pepper -	-	-	-	-	4	0	0	0	0	0½	per Bag.	
Chassum, 10s. per Bale not exceeding } 4 Maunds -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	1½	per Bale.	
Chillies -	-	-	-	-	5	0	0	0	0	7½	per Ton.	
	-	-	-	-	7	0	0	0	1	3	per Ton.	
China Root -	-	-	-	-	5	0	0	0	0	5	per Ton.	
Chinese Manufactures; viz. China Ware, } Coque-de-perle, Fans, Ink, Mats, } Lacquered Ware, Mother-o'-Pearl } Ware, Paper, Soy, &c. -	-	-	-	-	2	0	0	{	0	0	2	per Chest until Prompt Day, and afterwards 1d. per Lot if divided.
Cinnabar or Vermillion -	-	-	-	-	2	0	0		0	0	10	per Ton.
Cinnamon -	-	-	-	-	1	0	0	0	0	1½	per Bale.	
Cloves -	-	-	-	-	1	0	0	0	0	1½	per Chest.	
Cochineal -	-	-	-	-	2	0	0	0	0	10	per Ton.	
Coculus Indicus -	-	-	-	-	2	0	0	0	0	10	per Ton.	
Coffee, of all kinds -	-	-	-	-	2	0	0	0	0	7½	per Ton.	
Columbo Root -	-	-	-	-	2	0	0	0	0	10	per Ton.	
Cornelian, Agate, and Arrangoe Stones, } Beads and Manufactures of ditto; } also Coral Beads -	-	-	-	-	2	0	0	{	0	0	2	per Chest until Prompt Day, and afterwards 1d. per Lot if divided.
Cotton Thread or Yarn -	-	-	-	-	1	0	0		0	0	1¼	per Bale.
Cotton Wool -	-	-	-	-	1	10	0	{	0	0	0¼	per 100 lbs.
	-	-	-	-	On a fixed Value of 6d. per Pound.				0	0	1½	per Bale.
Cotton Wool, Bourbon -	-	-	-	-	1	10	0	{	0	0	1½	per Bale.
	-	-	-	-	On a fixed Value of 1s. per Pound.				0	0	1½	per Bale.

* That is, the Day (fixed at the Time of Sale) upon which the Buyer engages to pay in full for the Goods bought by him.—In case the Goods shall not pass the Sales, the whole of the Warehouse Rent until the Period of Delivery will of course remain a Charge upon the Goods, and be paid by the Importer, or the Person to whom he may transfer his Property in the Goods.

Mr. T. Mills.

	Rates per Cent.			Warehouse Rent per Week.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Cowries - - - - -	7	0	0	0	0	5 per Ton.
Cubebs - - - - -	3	0	0	0	1	3 per Ton.
Cummin Seed - - - - -	2	0	0	0	0	5 per Ton.
Dragon's Blood - - - - -	3	0	0	0	0	10 per Ton.
Elephants Teeth and Sea Horse Teeth	2	0	0	0	0	1 per Cwt.
Frankincense - - - - -	4	0	0	0	0	10 per Ton.
Galanga Root - - - - -	4	0	0	0	0	10 per Ton.
Galbanum - - - - -	4	0	0	0	0	10 per Ton.
Galls - - - - -	3	0	0	0	0	10 per Ton.
Ginger - - - - -	6	0	0	0	0	5 per Ton.
Gum Ammoniac - - - - -	2	10	0	0	0	10 per Ton.
Gum Animi or Copal - - - - -	2	10	0	0	0	10 per Ton.
Gum Arabic - - - - -	3	0	0	0	0	10 per Ton.
Gum Benjamin - - - - -	3	0	0	0	0	10 per Ton.
Gum Kino - - - - -	2	0	0	0	0	10 per Ton.
Gum Mastich - - - - -	4	0	0	0	0	10 per Ton.
Gum Myrrh - - - - -	2	10	0	0	0	10 per Ton.
Gum Olibanum - - - - -	4	0	0	0	0	10 per Ton.
Gum Senega - - - - -	4	0	0	0	0	10 per Ton.
Gum Tragacanth - - - - -	4	0	0	0	0	10 per Ton.
Gum Unrated - - - - -	4	0	0	0	0	10 per Ton.
Hemp and Sunn - - - - -	2	0	0	0	0	5 per Ton.
Hides - - - - -	5	0	0	0	0	7½ per Ton.
Horns, Buffalo - - - - -	7	0	0	0	0	10 per Ton.
Horn Tips - - - - -	4	0	0	0	0	5 per Ton.
Indigo - - - - -	2	0	0	{	0	0 1½ per Chest of any Weight.
Kelp, Barilla, Alkali, and Soda - - -	7	0	0	0	0	0¼ per Cwt.
Lac Lake and Lac Dye - - - - -	2	0	0	0	0	10 per Ton.
Lichen or Moss - - - - -	7	0	0	0	0	1 per Bale.
Long Pepper - - - - -	3	0	0	0	0	7½ per Ton.
Mace - - - - -	1	0	0	0	0	1½ per Chest.
Molasses - - - - -	2	0	0	{	0	0 6 per Hogshead.
Mother-o'-Pearl Shells - - - - -	3	0	0	0	1	0 per Pipe or Leaguer.
Munjeet - { in Bales - - - - -	3	0	0	0	0	5 per Ton.
- { in Bags or Bundles - - - - -	4	0	0	0	0	7½ per Ton.
Musk - - - - -	1	0	0	0	1	3 per Ton.
Muslins, White, Printed, or Dyed (vide Piece Goods).				{	0	0 2 per Chest until Prompt Day, and afterwards ½d. per Lot if divided.
Myrabolanes - - - - -	7	0	0	0	0	5 per Ton.
Nankeens - { Passing Company's Sales - - -	1	10	0	{	0	0 1 per Bale or Chest.
- { By Private Bargain - - - - -	1	5	0			
Nutmegs - - - - -	1	0	0	0	0	1½ per Chest.
Nux Vomica - - - - -	5	0	0	0	0	5 per Ton.
Oils, Chemical - - - - -	2	0	0	0	0	2 per Chest until Prompt Day; and afterwards for Quart
Bottles, loose, not exceeding Six per Lot, ¼th of a Penny per Quart Bottle; if exceeding Six per Lot, 1d. per Dozen Quart Bottles. Canisters under 400 Ounces, ½d. per Canister; exceeding 400 Ounces, 1d. per Canister.						
Oil of Cocoa Nut - - - - -	3	0	0	{	0	0 6 per Hogshead.
Opium - - - - -	1	0	0	0	1	0 per Pipe or Leaguer.
Pepper, Black - - - - -	2	0	0	0	0	10 per Ton.
Pepper, White - - - - -	2	0	0	0	0	1 per Bag of 316 lbs.
Piece Goods, Cotton, { Passing Com- }	1	10	0	{	0	0 0¾ per Bag of 224 lbs.
White, Coloured, { pany's Sales - }	1	5	0			
and Mixed Silk { By Private Bar- }						
and Cotton - { gain - - - }				0	0	1½ per Bale.
Piece Goods, Silk { Passing Company's }	1	0	0	{	0	0 1½ per Bale.
- { Sales - - - }	0	15	0			
- { By Private Bargain - - - }						
Puree - - - - -	2	0	0	0	0	1 per Chest.
Rattans, 2s. per Thousand, in Tale - -	-	-	-	0	0	2 per Thousand.

	Rates per Cent.			Warehouse Rent per Week.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Red Saunders Wood - - - - -	5	0	0	0	0	1½ per Ton.
Rhubarb - - - - -	2	0	0	0	0	10 per Ton.
Rice - - - - -	3	10	0	0	0	0¼ per Bag.
Safflower - - - - -	2	0	0	0	0	7½ per Ton.
Sago - - - - -	6	0	0	0	0	5 per Ton.
Sal Ammoniac - - - - -	3	0	0	0	0	10 per Ton.
Saltpetre - - - - -	3	0	0	0	0	5 per Ton.
Sandal Wood - - - - -	3	0	0	0	0	3 per Ton.
Sapan Wood - - - - -	4	0	0	0	0	2 per Ton.
Sea Horse Teeth (vide Elephants Teeth).						
Sealing Wax - - - - -	4	0	0	0	0	10 per Ton.
Seed Lac - - - - -	4	0	0	0	0	10 per Ton.
Seeds of all kinds - - - - -	4	0	0	0	0	5 per Ton.
Senna - - - - -	2	10	0	0	0	7½ per Ton.
Shawls - { Passing Company's Sales -	1	0	0	}	0	0 1½ per Bale.
{ By Private Bargain - - -	0	15	0			
Shellac - - - - -	4	0	0	0	0	10 per Ton.
Silk, viz. Raw Silk of Bengal or China	1	0	0	0	0	1½ per Bale.
Silks, wrought (vide Piece Goods, Silk).						
Skins - - - - -	6	0	0	0	0	1 per Hundred.
Soap - - - - -	5	0	0	0	0	7½ per Ton.
Spirits (vide Arrack).						
Sticklac - - - - -	4	0	0	0	0	10 per Ton.
Sugar - - - - -	2	0	0	0	0	0¼ per Cwt.
Sugar Candy - - - - -	2	0	0	0	0	1 per Chest.
Talc or Ubruc - - - - -	4	0	0	0	0	5 per Ton.
Tamarinds - - - - -	4	0	0	0	0	10 per Ton.
Terra Japonica - - - - -	4	0	0	0	0	7½ per Ton.
Tin - - - - -	1	0	0	0	0	5 per Ton.
Tortoiseshell - - - - -	1	0	0	0	0	1 per Box.
Turmeric - - - - -	5	0	0	0	0	5 per Ton.
Tutenague - - - - -	2	0	0	0	0	5 per Ton.
Ultramarine - - - - -	2	0	0	0	0	1 per Box.
Wood for dyeing, and all other Wood except Red Saunders, Sandal, and Sapan Wood - - - - -	7	0	0	0	0	2 per Ton.
Wool of Sheep or Goats - - - - -	3	0	0	0	0	1 per Bale.
Zedoaria - - - - -	2	0	0	0	0	7½ per Ton.

Articles not enumerated will be charged according to their Value and Bulk.

These Rates are calculated on the usual Packages in which Goods have hitherto been imported. Proportionable Rates will be charged for any other kinds of Packages.

If Goods require to be garbled, or to have new Packages, a reasonable Price will be charged for the same.

A Charge of One Quarter per Cent. on the gross Value of all Goods sold at the Company's Sales, and of One Eighth per Cent. on all Goods delivered by Valuation or Private Bargain, will be made to the Proprietors, in addition to the above Per-centages respectively.

The usual petty Fee of Lot or Loading Money will be paid to the Warehousekeepers by the Parties who may take the Goods away.

East India House, 4th October 1826.

Are you aware of any Reason why they should make so great a Difference in the Charge upon different Descriptions of Commodities?

My Opinion is, that they make this Charge on Teas to prevent the Competition of their own Servants.

Mr. T. Mills.

You infer that they apprehend that Competition more in the Case of Tea than of other Commodities?

Certainly.

Do they take into Consideration, in making that Charge, the Circumstance of their Officers bringing Home their Teas free from Freight?

No. In the Agreement the Company make with their Officers, a certain Quantity of Tonnage is allowed them, and in that Tonnage the Officers bring Home either Teas, Silk, or Mother of Pearl Shells, or any thing they please, or they even sell it sometimes. These are the Papers in which their Charges are stated; they charge Twelve per Cent. on one Account, and Sixteen per Cent. on another Account, averaging together Twenty-six per Cent.

Do the Purchasers of Tea meet with the same Facilities of Accommodation from the Company as the Purchasers of other Goods?

No, I certainly think not; the few Sales that occur in the Course of the Year are a great Inconvenience to the Trade. In every other Article in which there is such a large Consumption, the Sales occur daily and weekly, such as Sugar and Coffee and Groceries; and whenever the Trade has had an Occasion to make any Application to the Company, they have been disinclined to comply with it. They make a Charge for Lot Money, which is much greater than is made by other Importers; they charge 3*d.* a Chest for lotting Teas, and that produces about £6,000 a Year to the Company; the lotting of the Teas is done for their own Convenience; and on many Occasions the Trade have applied to the Company for its Remission, but without Success.

Are you of opinion that the opening of the Trade from Canton, and doing away with the Monopoly of the Company, would be favourable or injurious to your Interests as a Tea Dealer?

The Brokers, who at present have a Brokerage upon the whole of the Teas imported, wish generally the Trade to be confined to this Port. The Dealers, I think, are divided in Opinion; all of them would wish the Trade thrown open if the Imports could be confined to the Port of London. My own Opinion is, that it would be more for my personal Interest if the Trade was thrown open.

Would it not be clearly for the personal Interest of the Tea Dealers in other Parts of the Country than London?

Decidedly. The Objection felt by any Portion of the Trade here is, that Tea Dealers in other Parts of the Country would be benefited at their Expence.

Have you any doubt that there would be a greatly increased Consumption of Tea, supposing the Trade were thrown open generally?

I have no doubt at all of it.

Do you think that Teas of inferior Quality would be obtained at a cheaper Rate?

I have no positive Facts on which to form that Opinion; but the Calculation of the Company's Profit leads to such an Inference.

Have you any doubt Tea might be imported at a much cheaper Rate by private Merchants?

I have no doubt of that; for the private Merchant would be content with a small Portion of the Company's Profits.

Do you supply any Persons in Ireland with Tea?

No.

You are not aware of the State of Consumption of Tea in Ireland?

No. I am aware there are Houses in London who purchase it for the Consumption of Ireland, and that a very considerable Quantity is purchased for Ireland.

You have no Means of judging whether a more or less increased Consumption would take place in Ireland in consequence of opening the Trade?

I think the Consumption of Tea would be generally increased if the Quantity was increased.

Can

Can you state the Difference between the Wholesale and Retail Price of the different Qualities of Teas ?

No ; that is quite uncertain. In Towns where there is a great Competition the Retailer is satisfied with a much less Profit than he would be in Cases where there was no Competition.

In London what is the Per-centage ?

I do not know ; I am not a Retailer, and I supply no London Retail Dealer.

Whom do you supply ?

We supply Country Grocers — the Retail Grocers.

What is the highest Price you pay for any Tea you buy ?

We buy all Varieties, from 1s. 6d. to 5s. 3d.

Is 5s. 3d. the highest Price you have given for Teas of late Years ?

No ; occasionally a very small Quantity may have sold at a higher Price.

Do you transact all your Business through Brokers ?

We attend the Sale Room when the Teas are put up, and nod to a Broker, who makes the Bidding.

You bid through him, upon your own Judgment ; you do not trust to his Judgment ?

Of course we act upon our own Judgment.

What is the Commission paid to the Broker ?

An Half per Cent.

Are there many Wholesale Tea Dealers in London ?

Yes, there is a considerable Number.

The Trade is not confined to a small Number of Persons ?

No. I cannot give a Guess as to the Number, but I should say there may be Three or Four hundred.

To what Circumstance do you attribute the Reduction which has taken place in the Price of Tea of late Years ?

To the increased Quantity declared by the Company for Sale.

Do you not apprehend that the increased Consumption of Coffee has had a considerable Effect in reducing the Price of Tea ; that it has been used by the lower Orders as a Substitute ?

Certainly.

Do you apprehend that the increased Consumption of Coffee will be progressive at the present relative Duties on Tea and Coffee ?

I can hardly give an Opinion ; the Consumption of Coffee continues to increase every Year ; and I see no Reason why the Consumption of Tea should not increase in the same Ratio.

If Coffee increases in the same Ratio, will it not displace so much Tea in the general Consumption of the Country ?

The Population of the Country is increasing ; if the Price of Coffee was to decline, I think that would be very unfavourable to the Consumption of Tea.

How much per Cent. is the Price of Coffee increased by the Duty ?

The Duty is Sixpence a Pound.

What Increase is that upon the Price ?

Coffee sells at all Prices ; it is impossible to tell ; Coffees are bought as low as 30s. per Cwt. ; the Duty is 56s. per Cwt.

What is the highest Price ?

Mocha Coffee sells for Six Guineas ; the Duty upon that is Nine-pence per lb., and on all East India Coffee.

Can you say what is the Average Increase in Price per Cent. on Coffee, in consequence of the Duty ?

No, I cannot.

Mr. T. Mills.

Of that Quality, what is most usually consumed ?

There is such a Variety of Coffee ; I have bought Coffee at 38s., and Coffee at £6.

What is the Rate of Duty per Cent. on Coffee of the highest Price ?

It would be nearly One hundred per Cent. on the Cost of Mocha ; £6 is a very high Price.

The highest Price you have given for Hyson Tea is 5s. 3d. ?

That was the highest Price at the last Sale ; it has fetched more.

What is the highest Price you have given for Black Tea ?

There is a very small Quantity of fine Tea brought over by the Private Trade, and which comes over as Presents.

The Question refers to that brought over by the Company ?

Souchongs have sold at 4s. 9d.

On what kinds of Tea has the Price fallen most ?

I cannot give an Opinion.

How do you explain the Circumstance of so large a Quantity as Fifteen or Sixteen hundred thousand Pounds of Tea being refused by the Trade at an Advance on the Upset Price, and yet there having been a great Increase on the Upset Price on the Quantities sold ?

Because that Tea refused and put up at 2s. 1d. was not worth the Price at which it was put up ; other Tea put up at 1s. 8d. has fetched 2s. 5d.

You attribute its Rejection to its not being of the Value at which it was put up ?

Undoubtedly ; it would have been bought at any Sale at which it was rejected at very near 2s. 1d. or at 2s. 0½d.

Are you not aware that some of that Tea, which had been rejected as not being worth an Advance on the Upset Price, has been sold at the next Sale at a higher Price than that at which it had been offered at the previous Sale ?

Not unless there was an Advance in the Price of Teas of the same Quality ; generally the Variation would not, in the Opinion of Dealers, shew the Value of Tea, for the Reasons I have already stated.

The Company have no Controul over the Quantity put up by their Officers ?

They know what that Quantity will be, and they limit their own Supply accordingly. They make up the Quantity over and above the Quantity sold by their Officers.

As the Quantity of Tea rejected by the Public has increased very much of late Years, do you apprehend that the Quality of the Tea put up by the Company has been inferior, and that the Upset Price has been higher, in proportion to the Value of the Tea, than it used to be ?

I should say there was, in every Sale, a greater Quantity than there used to be of what we call a fresh new Tea. The Teas are not so strong as they used to be.

What do you mean by a fresh Tea ?

Those Terms are used in the Company's Character ; it is a weaker Tea ; not a strong coarse Tea.

It does not mean that it is a young Tea ?

No.

Is that Tea, called fresh new Tea, generally inferior in Value to the Price at which it is put up ?

Not necessarily, because there are fresh new Teas put up both at 1s. 8d. and 2s. 1d.

Is it Tea of that Description which has been usually rejected ?

Yes, frequently.

Are

Are you aware what the Decrease of Price had been, previous to the last Sale, within the last Six Years?

Mr. T. Mills.

No, I have not made a Calculation.

Have you estimated the Net Profit, in the Manner in which you have estimated it for the last Sale, in any previous Year?

No, I have not.

Are you aware whether the Net Profit on the last Sale was greater or less than in June 1826, for instance?

No, I am not.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Tuesday next, One o'Clock.

Die Martis, 29^o Junii 1830.

The LORD PRESIDENT in the Chair.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Thursday next, One
o'Clock.

Die Jovis, 1^o Julii 1830.

The LORD PRESIDENT in the Chair.

Mr. RICHARD SHAW is called in, and examined as follows :

Evidence on the
Affairs of the East
India Company, &c.*Mr. Richard Shaw.*

You are a Manufacturer of Bombasins and Camlets at Norwich, are you not ?

I am, of both.

What is the Difference between them ?

A Bombasin is made of Silk and Worsted, a Camlet of all Worsted.

Which Articles have you chiefly supplied the East India Company with ?

They buy principally Camlets.

Has there been an Increase or a Decrease in the Quantity purchased by the East India Company during the last Twenty or Twenty-five Years ?

I believe that there is a smaller Quantity ordered now than there was Twenty Years back ; I can speak to the Trade for Eighteen or Nineteen Years, during which I have been in it for the Company.

To what Extent has there been a Decrease during that Period ?

I think from Three to Five thousand Pieces a Year. Formerly the Company's Order was from Fifteen to Eighteen thousand Pieces a Year ; for the last Eight or Ten Years there has been only Twelve thousand each Year, except One Year, when there were Fifteen thousand.

Is the Manner of Purchase by Tender ?

Yes.

Is the lowest Tender invariably accepted ?

That I am not able to say ; we very seldom know each other's Tenders. They are not bound to take the lowest Offer. I can show one of the Circulars, if it is desired.

The Witness produces the same, and it is read, and is as follows :

CAMLETS for CHINA, 1830 - 31.

Sir,

East India House, 28th Oct. 1829.

I AM ordered by the Committee of Buying and Warehouses of the East India Company to acquaint you, that the Committee will be ready on Wednesday the 18th November 1829, at Eleven o'Clock precisely, to consider Tenders (sealed up) for supplying the Company with Twelve thousand Pieces of Camlets, upon the following Conditions and Stipulations, viz.

2. The Camlets are to be of the following Rates, Weights, and Dimensions, viz.

	Chain Score.	Shoot, Dozen Skeins.	Shoots to an Inch.	Weight.			
				lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.
Doubles - -	23 4	29 0	50 Double -	19	12	to 20	0
Singles - -	21 4	14 9	51 Single -	19	8	to 19	12
Second Singles -	16 4	13 6	47 Single -	19	8	to 19	12

3. Every Camlet must measure 55 Yards in Length, of 37 Inches to the Yard, and be full 30 Inches in Width ; the Selvages are to be without Stripes, and every Piece must have Two Roses at each End, with the Manufacturer's Name or Mark inserted at One End.

Mr. Richard Shaw.

4. The Goods are to be boiled, so as to render them soft and pliable; and they are to be well finished in every respect. The Threads of the Camlets must be round and even, and the Texture of the Weaving close. The Colours must be sound and brilliant, free from Cloudiness, and correctly match the Company's Patterns, to which the most scrupulous Conformity will be required.
5. The Camlets are to be forwarded made up on Boards exactly 16 Inches wide; the Boards must be free from Turpentine, well planed, and papered all over; all Folds in the Goods must be avoided, and they are to have the Ends slightly tacked, in order to keep them smooth.
6. The Tenders must express a separate Price for Camlets of each Quality and Colour, as the Committee will not engage to take the whole Quantity which any Manufacturer may offer at an Aggregate or Average Price, but will buy such respective Colours and Quantities as may be tendered at the cheapest Rates. Every Manufacturer must consequently offer so many Blacks, so many Purples, &c., at a separate Price for each; the Committee having the Option of taking all or any Portion of the Colours.
7. The Deliveries are to commence on the 1st of March 1830, and end on the 31st of December 1830, in Ten equal Monthly Proportions. No Charge to be made for Carriage to London, nor for Cartage to the Warehouse.
8. The Opinion of the Company's Overlookers as to the Quality and Colour of the Goods shall be final; and the Overlookers shall be at liberty, should they see it proper, to cut off One of the Roses of any of the Camlets which they may reject, in order to prevent such Camlets from being again sent into the Company's Warehouse for Re-inspection; and the Committee desire it to be most distinctly understood, that they will not enter into any Discussion upon the Merits of Camlets which the Overlookers may reject or may pass at Abatements.
9. An Abatement of Five or Ten Shillings will be made upon any Piece which may be found slightly defective in Quality, Colour, or in any other Particular; but any Camlets which in the Opinion of the Overlookers are unfit to be passed will be peremptorily rejected, and must be immediately replaced with approved Goods; but in case of a large Proportion being objectionable, it shall be at the Option of the Company to return the whole Parcel, nor will they be received at the End of the Season at a reduced Price, as has sometimes been the Practice.
10. The Wrappers and Packing Materials of every Description (except the Boards upon which the Camlets are made up) will be returned direct to the Manufacturers, unless used up in packing the returned Camlets, for which the Overlookers are to receive Sixpence, and no more, for each Camlet.
11. Payment for the March Delivery will be made on the first Thursday in May 1830, provided the Goods shall have been duly delivered within the Time fixed, and so on for each Monthly Delivery; but all Payments will be withheld from Persons who may be in arrear with their Monthly Deliveries, until such Arrears shall be made good. The usual Office Fee of One Shilling upon each Camlet passed to Account will be deducted from the Amount of each Bill of Parcels.
12. All Tenders must be delivered at the Office of the Committee of Buying and Warehouses, in the East India House, before Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday the 18th November 1829. Many Persons not having been careful to send in their Offers at or before the Time appointed, it is positively ordered that no Tender be received after the above-mentioned Day and Hour; and this will be strictly observed by the Committee.
13. All Goods which may be delivered in consequence of the present Circular will lie at the Company's Risk in case of the Calamity of Fire.
14. The Committee reserve to themselves the Right to reject any Proposals which they may deem to be unreasonable, although such Proposals may appear to be the lowest and most advantageous which may be offered.
15. The accompanying Form must be adhered to, for which Purpose you will please to copy the printed Letter, and fill up the Blanks, and sign the same, and by no means substitute any other Form of Tender. You will please to write on the Cover of your Letter "Tender for Camlets."
16. The Camlets now wanted, provided the Prices required shall be approved by the Committee, are as follows:

Camlets, Double	-	-	Ash	-	-	Pieces	20
Do. - Do.	-	-	Black	-	-	—	400
Do. - Do.	-	-	Light Blue	-	-	—	140
Do. - Do.	-	-	Mazarine Blue	-	-	—	480
Do. - Do.	-	-	Dark Brown	-	-	—	20
Do. - Do.	-	-	Red Brown	-	-	—	140
Do. - Do.	-	-	Purple	-	-	—	560
Do. - Do.	-	-	Scarlet	-	-	—	200
Do. - Do.	-	-	Deep Yellow	-	-	—	40

Total Doubles, Pieces 2,000

Camlets

Camlets, Single	-	-	Ash	-	-	Pieces	60
Do.	-	Do.	-	-	Black	-	1,200
Do.	-	Do.	-	-	Light Blue	-	420
Do.	-	Do.	-	-	Mazarine Blue	-	1,440
Do.	-	Do.	-	-	Dark Brown	-	60
Do.	-	Do.	-	-	Red Brown	-	420
Do.	-	Do.	-	-	Purple	-	1,680
Do.	-	Do.	-	-	Scarlet	-	600
Do.	-	Do.	-	-	Deep Yellow	-	120

Total Singles, Pieces 6,000

Camlets, Second Single	-	-	Ash	-	-	Pieces	40
Do.	-	Do.	-	-	Black	-	800
Do.	-	Do.	-	-	Light Blue	-	280
Do.	-	Do.	-	-	Mazarine Blue	-	960
Do.	-	Do.	-	-	Dark Brown	-	40
Do.	-	Do.	-	-	Red Brown	-	280
Do.	-	Do.	-	-	Purple	-	1,120
Do.	-	Do.	-	-	Scarlet	-	400
Do.	-	Do.	-	-	Deep Yellow	-	80

Total Second Singles, Pieces 4,000

I am, Sir,
Your humble Servant,
W^m SIMONS.

All Persons making Tenders are required to insert their Place of Residence at length; if in London, the Street must be named; and if in the Country, the next Post Town must be also specified, unless the Place itself be a Post Town, in which Case the Parties will notice that Particular.

To the Honourable Committee of Buying and Warehouses of the East India Company.

Honourable Sirs,

WE hereby offer to supply the East India Company with the under-mentioned Camlets, or any Part thereof, at the Prices set against the same; to be subject to the Conditions and Stipulations contained in your Letter dated the 28th October 1829.

				Pieces.	At per Piece.		
					£	s.	d.
CAMLETS, Double	{	Ash	-	-			
		Black	-	-			
		Light Blue	-	-			
		Mazarine Blue	-	-			
		Dark Brown	-	-			
		Red Brown	-	-			
		Purple	-	-			
		Scarlet	-	-			
		Deep Yellow	-	-			
Total Double Camlets				-			
CAMLETS, Single	{	Ash	-	-			
		Black	-	-			
		Light Blue	-	-			
		Mazarine Blue	-	-			
		Dark Brown	-	-			
		Red Brown	-	-			
		Purple	-	-			
		Scarlet	-	-			
		Deep Yellow	-	-			
Total Single Camlets				-			

Mr. Richard Shaw.

			Pieces.	At per Piece.		
				£	s.	d.
CAMLETS, Second Single	{	Ash	-			
		Black	-			
		Light Blue	-			
		Mazarine Blue	-			
		Dark Brown	-			
		Red Brown	-			
		Purple	-			
		Scarlet	-			
	{	Deep Yellow	-			
Total Second Single Camlets			-			

We are, Honourable Sirs,
Your humble Servants,

Dated at
this November 1829.

Is the Quantity of Goods that is rejected by the Company considerable?
Very considerable.

What is the Nature of the Inspection to which the Goods are subjected on Delivery—is that Inspection carried on with Fairness and with Discrimination?

Certainly not ; I offered to prove that last Year, but the Committee would not hear me.

What Committee?

The Committee for Buying at the East India House.

In what Particular do you consider their Mode of Inspection defective?

I have had many Hundreds of Pieces returned which were from Five to Ten per Cent. better than the Patterns given me to work by.

Have you known any Instances in which Goods have been returned by the Company without any obvious Fault?

Yes, many Instances of it.

Have you ever known those same Goods at a subsequent Period passed?

Yes ; about last May and June I received back a great Quantity of Goods which I knew had never been taken off the Boards, nor ever examined ; I dressed them again, and sent them back without any Alteration, and a great many of them passed, and at the full Prices.

Have they always the same Examiner?

There are Three Gentlemen overlook them.

The Goods the Second Time may have been before a different Examiner?

That I cannot speak to.

Have you had any Opportunity of knowing whether those Examiners, who have rejected the Goods in the first Instance, have been long in the Employment of the East India Company?

Two of them a considerable Time longer than I have been a Manufacturer for them ; the other has been appointed since—I think some Seven or Eight Years since. One of them, I think, has been there these Forty Years.

Are Camlets always delivered to the Company in a dyed State?

Yes, in a dyed State ; different Colours, according to their Order.

Is there any Demand for Camlets for the Private Trade?

There is a Demand for what we call a Private Trade—a Trade conducted by the Americans chiefly.

Is that Demand on the Increase or the Decline?

I think on the Increase very much.

During

During what Period has it been so?

Mr. Richard Shaw.

In 1821 the Increase began to be very much; and from that Time I believe it has increased yearly.

What is the comparative Quality, Length, Breadth, Fineness, and Weight of the Camlets that are intended for the last-named Trade, compared with the East India Company's Camlets?

I know of no Difference; I have always made them alike, the same for the Private Trade as for the Company's Trade; and indeed, when I made the Camlets, I did not know whether they would be for the Company's or the Private Trade. They are always made in a White State; and I make a Stock ready; and if I take an Order for the Company, I dye them for the Company. The Goods are quite equal.

Have you Reason to think that, in point of fact, the Goods purchased by the Private Merchants are chiefly such as have been rejected by the Company?

Certainly not; not One Tenth of what the Private Trade take have been rejected by the Company.

Do you receive exactly the same Price from the Private Merchant and the Company for the same Goods?

We make the best Bargain we can; provided we have a few Returns in the House, we sell them somewhat cheaper; and I had rather always take an Order from the Private Trade than for the Company, we are subject to so many Deductions and Returns.

What does the Difference amount to?

From Five to Seven and a Half per Cent.

On the whole Account?

Yes; the Deductions last Year from my Order for the Company were £1,231 10s. or thereabouts; the Expences upon the Returns, meaning Carriage, &c., from London to Norwich, £366; the Fees that I paid the Company were £542.

Of what Nature are the Fees?

There is a Shilling a Piece deducted for Office Fee, and we pay Sixpence per Piece for the rejected Camlets, for the Packing for returning.

Is that Sum of £542 the Fee you paid for the whole you furnished?

Yes.

How many Pieces were rejected?

I am not able to say that exactly; I should think from 4,500 to 5,000 Pieces — better than 4,000 Pieces, certainly.

Although the rejected Pieces form but a small Proportion of the Quantity that is supplied to the Private Traders; in point of fact, have such Pieces been frequently sold to the Private Merchants, and have they been exported by them to Advantage?

Certainly.

Is there any Variation in the Colour of the Goods that are ordered by the Private Merchants and those that are ordered by the Company?

Very little indeed; there is one Colour which the Company order, what they call Light Blues; the Private Trade order Middle Blues, meaning a little darker in the Colour only.

Do you think, from the Degree in which the Manufacturers are exposed to Loss and Vexation by the Rejection of their Goods by the Company, that the Private Merchant might buy on equally favourable or more advantageous Terms than the Company?

Certainly.

When you ask that additional Price of Five or Seven and a Half per Cent. from the Company, in consequence of the Power of Rejection which is stipulated for, do you calculate likewise on what you pay in Fees to them?

We calculate every thing; we are obliged to do so.

Mr. Richard Shaw.

That covers the probable Difference between selling to them and to others ?
Yes.

What is the Value of a Piece of Camlet at the present Moment ?

According to the different Colours ; I should think the Blacks are 76s. or 78s. per Piece.

Upon that you pay 1s. as Office Fee ?

Yes, we do ; then the Overlookers have the Liberty, if they think a Piece a little inferior in Quality, of deducting Five or Ten Shillings from the Price agreed by the Company. If I make my Contract at 76s. or 78s. for Blacks, if the Overlookers consider a Piece inferior in Quality Five or Ten Shillings, they will deduct Five or Ten Shillings from that Piece.

They tell you you must take it back again, unless you deduct that Amount ?

No ; they have the Authority of deducting it themselves.

If the Pieces are still worse, they then reject them ?

Yes.

Do you furnish other Goods instead of them ?

In many Instances the same Pieces again, and they will pass.

Do you pay the same Fee upon them again ?

No ; there is no Fee unless they pass, and Sixpence for the repacking of those which are returned.

Are there any Instances of the Company defacing or marking Goods that have been offered to them, in a way which shews they have been offered to them, and rejected ?

Every Piece of Goods which is dyed for the Company have what is called Two Roses marked at each End ; the Company, from their Circular and the Contract they make, have the Liberty of cutting One of those Marks off, which never can be put on again, which injures the Piece very much.

Do they often do that ?

I had many Hundreds lost last Year.

Have you found that always makes the Piece very unsaleable, except at a great Diminution of Price ?

Certainly.

Have you found that such Goods have been purchased by the Americans ?

Yes, and others.

What Proportion do you conceive such Pieces bear to the whole Number that are supplied to the Americans ?

Not One Tenth Part.

Have you yourself been much in the habit of selling Manufactured Articles to the Americans ?

I think from 1821 up to 1828 I did Nine Tenths of all the Private Trade which went from England. It was in 1821 the Private Trade began to increase very much ; and from that Time up to 1828, I think I may say I did Nine Tenths of all the Private Trade in that Article for the American Trade to China.

Have you found them in general as attentive to the Quality of the Goods which they purchased as the East India Company ?

I never sent any in or completed an Order without their being inspected by some Overlooker in London.

They purchase through English Agents, do they not ?

One or Two of them ; there are One or Two American Gentlemen give me Orders, and they order the Goods to be sent to their Packers to be overlooked.

Are there any other Circumstances besides those you have mentioned, which lead you to think that the East India Company purchased their Goods at a much dearer Rate than the Private Merchants ?

No, I do not know any other Circumstances than those I have stated ; we

are always obliged to guard against Deductions, Five and Ten Shillings a Piece, which we are subject to, and for the Returns for which we are obliged to make our Prices to the Company higher than they otherwise would be. *Mr. Richard Shaw.*

You stated that there had been a Diminution in the Demand of the East India Company of late Years; have you ever received from them any Complaint as to the Quality of Goods which you have supplied, which could at all account for that Diminution?

Never.

The Company rejecting so many Pieces, and the Private Merchants rejecting very few, do you apprehend that what remain to the Company would sell at a higher Price than those purchased by the Private Merchant; that they are really better?

So trifling, that none but a good Judge can know; for a Camlet is an Article which has been made such a Number of Years, and we have such specific Directions how many Threads to the Inch, and how many Shoots across, and so on; if One Piece is not so good as another, it is by a Journeyman not making it so well.

What has been the Reduction in the Price of Camlets during the last Ten Years?

I have had 140 Shillings for the Double Camlets, and now we are making them at 78, and as low as 76.

To what Circumstances do you attribute the Reduction of Price?

The better Methods of making the Yarns. Twenty Years ago we were obliged to use Handspun Yarns; now the Mills will spin the Yarns with greater Facility, and much cheaper than they were then.

Is that the sole Cause of the Reduction of Price?

No; I believe Wool is much cheaper.

How far does the Reduction in the Price of Wool enter into the Reduction in the Price of Camlets?

It all depends on the Difference of the Price of Wools; if it is Three-pence a Pound, it makes a Difference of Five Shillings on a Piece of Camlets; but every thing is cheaper; we formerly paid Double the Price for dyeing which we now do. The Price of dyeing Materials and the Labour of dyeing is all down.

Can you specify the Portion of the Reduction of Price which is to be attributed to each of the several Circumstances you have mentioned, and to any others you have not yet adverted to; can you say how much is to be attributed to the Introduction of Machinery, how much to the Fall in the Price of Wool, how much to the Fall in the Price of dyeing Materials, and so on?

I am not able to say that exactly.

Can you make out such an Account?

The dyeing, I think, makes a Difference of Ten Shillings a Piece less than it was Ten Years back, in some Colours; not in Blacks.

How far does any Diminution in the Price of Labour enter into the Comparison?

The Labour is now as high as it was; it has never been lessened at all for weaving.

Do you look forward to any further Diminution in the Price of Camlets?

I do not think it likely at the present Moment; the Price must be increased, for Wool is getting up. Wool has risen within this last Two or Three Months.

How much?

I think about Five per Cent.

Are they made upon Long or Short Wool?

Long Wool.

Do you consider the Quality of the Camlet equal to that it was Ten Years ago?

Better.

Mr. Richard Shaw.

So that a better Article is furnished at a much lower Price?

Yes, at a little more than Half the Price.

At what do you reckon the Improvement in the intrinsic Value of the Article?

I think more than Five per Cent.; but where there is a Quantity of Pieces made, there will be Five per Cent. Difference only in Workmanship of different Weavers.

Do you use nothing but Long Wool in the Manufacture?

Nothing but Long Wool; we cannot use Short Wool.

Have not you found that the decreased Price has led to an increased Demand for Goods?

I should think it has; in the Case of Bombasins and other Articles it has been so. I cannot account for the increased Demand for Camlets otherwise; it may be from the Difference in the Price.

How do you reconcile the Diminution of Demand on the Part of the East India Company with the increased Demand on the Part of the Americans?

I am not able to answer that Question; I suppose the Company find Things that pay them better than Camlets, or they would send more of them.

Have you any Opportunity of knowing whether the Diminution of Demand on the Part of the East India Company is owing to the Manufacture of Woollen Articles on the Continent for that Market?

I am not able to say a Word, except as to my own Manufactures. I have no Knowledge of any thing else.

As your Dealings with the Americans have been free from some of the Inconveniences to which you have been subject in your Contracts with the East India Directors, do you upon the whole prefer them as Purchasers to the East India Company?

Certainly.

Are there more Camlet Weavers now than you can find Employment for in the City of Norwich?

Yes, many more; there are a great many out of Employment at this present Moment.

Can you state at all what Proportion those out of Employment bear to those now in Employment?

I should think that One Third of the Camlet Weavers are out of Employment.

And yet the Wages of those in Employment are the same as they were Ten Years ago, the Price of Provision being so much cheaper?

Yes; the Prices have not been lowered, and I should think that they cannot be much lowered; it is a very laborious Employment.

What is the Average of their Earnings?

I should take the Average of their Earnings to be from Twelve to Fourteen Shillings a Week, from which there are some little Expences to pay.

Were there a great Number of them out of Employment Ten Years ago?

Yes.

Was there about the same Proportion?

Yes, I believe so; the Camlet has been chiefly made at Norwich this Year; the Yorkshire Manufacturers have got a Part of the Company's Order; they had a Part of the Order in 1826; they were not able to get through with it; and I completed the Order for them.

In what Part of Yorkshire?

I think it is at Halifax, or near.

In what Year had the Camlet Weavers full Employment?

In 1822. I was then obliged to teach a Number of Men; there were not Camlet Hands enough to complete the Company's Orders, and the Private Orders I then had, which were very large.

Has

Has there always been a Number of Manufacturers out of Employment except at that Time? *Mr. Richard Shaw.*

It is only a certain Number of Hands that can weave the Camlet; there are many Weavers in Norwich who cannot weave the Camlet. They must be strong Men; it is hard Work.

When they were in full Employment in 1822, what were their Wages?

They did not earn more Money; such Men as are at work can earn that I have stated, but there are a great many now who have no Work.

Have you any Reason to suppose that a Free Trade to China and the East Indies would increase the Trade in Camlets?

I cannot speak to that, except that the Private Trade has been increasing for some Years, and that if the English Gentlemen were enabled to go there, I think there would be more Goods sent; I know some English Gentlemen who would be willing to send, but who are now obliged to send to Singapore.

Have you sold many that you knew were going to Singapore?

Yes, a great many Thousands.

Is that Trade increasing?

I think it is; it has increased within the last Year very much.

Do you know whether any Foreign Merchants, Dutch or others, export British Manufactures?

I believe they do. I have had One or Two Orders to go to Germany, which I understood were for the China Market.

Have you ever heard whether any Chinese Merchants themselves have sent any Orders to this Country for Goods?

I am not able altogether to speak to that Point further than this, that a Gentleman was in England some Four Months back, who gave me an Order for Two thousand Pieces of Camlets. It is for us to see how the Goods are to be paid for; he proposed to give me a Letter of Credit on a respectable House in London from one of the Hong Merchants, in Part Payment, and I understood from a Gentleman who ordered them, that the Camlets were for this Hong Merchant; I took that in Part Payment, and took the Acceptance of the Gentleman who gave me the Order at Eighteen Months, with a Lien on the Goods till the Money was paid.

Do you suppose that Order from the Hong Merchant to be the only one which has reached this Country?

I never heard of one before, nor never saw a Letter of Credit from a Hong Merchant before.

You satisfied yourself that that Letter of Credit was such as it was prudent to accept?

Yes, it would have been so here, but that the Exchange was against it.

Do you recollect the Name of the Hong Merchant?

I believe it was one of those that failed afterwards; but it was before his Failure, and I had a Lien on the Goods.

When was this Order given you?

I think in February last, and I completed it on the 10th of April; the Goods are gone.

You consider the Transaction as a perfectly safe one for yourself?

Certainly; I sent out the Letter of Credit through my Agent in London.

Were the Camlets you were desired to make for the Hong Merchant on his Account, directed to be of the same Quality and Appearance as those made for the East India Company?

My Contract was exactly the same for Quality, equal to the East India Company's tendered Patterns.

Are the Goods you manufacture for the Private Trade of the same Quality and Marks as the East India Company's Goods?

Exactly so, imitated in every respect.

Mr. Richard Shaw.

Do the Company and Private Merchants pay ready Money, or by Bills at a certain Date ?

That depends on the Agreement ; if we make an Agreement to take Bills, and I have taken many on respectable Houses in England, they add the Interest on the Bills. There are One or Two Houses I take a great deal of Money from, who will not permit a Bill to be drawn ; if we cash it, we agree for the Credit, and discount it at once.

How do the Company pay ?

We deliver the Goods monthly to the Company, which are looked over in March, and paid for in May.

Have you Reason to suppose that any other Hong or Chinese Merchants at Canton are likely to follow the Example of the Individual you have referred to ?

I am not able to answer that Question.

Have you heard of any considerable Manufactories of Camlets on the Continent of Europe ?

No ; there is a Manufactory at or near Dresden, I believe, but they are a different kind of Manufacture ; they are called Camlets, but they are what we call Mohair ; they make about 7,000 Pieces a Year. The Mohair is purchased in England, and sent to Holland to be manufactured there.

Is there any Manufactory in Saxony of Camlet made of a finer Species of Wool than is manufactured at Norwich ?

No ; I have made the finest that ever were made, to be sent out as Presents to the Hong Merchants.

Do you happen to know whether there is much Interest felt at Norwich about opening the East India and China Trade ?

I believe they would like to have it opened ; I speak from the Opinion of a good many of them.

Has there been any Petition to Parliament from the Camlet Weavers on the Subject ?

No.

How do you account for that ?

I am not able to say, except that the Masters have not taken it up, and that the Journeymen dare not take it up without their Masters set the Example.

Do you think it is in Part owing to the Masters being generally employed by the East India Company ?

Certainly.

You think that, if they had not received Orders for manufactured Articles from the East India Directors, they would have petitioned ?

I am not able to say that ; but if the Masters had taken it up, there would have been the Signatures of all the Men.

Do you know whether, within the last Two Years, those Orders have been more distributed among all the Manufacturers than they were formerly ?

It depended on the Tender ; last Year I had an Order for 10,848 Pieces out of 12,000 myself ; this Year it is distributed amongst them all.

Had it been usual before to distribute it among them all ?

In 1824 I had 10,800 of them, and since that it has been distributed among the different Manufacturers till last Year, when I had the greatest Part of them again.

You have stated that there is a Manufactory at Dresden of Camlets ; are they manufactured of Wool from this Country ?

One Half is of Wool, I do not suppose from this Country, and the other Half of Mohair.

You stated that a Part of the Saxon Manufacture is of very fine Wool ; that is the Wool of the Growth of that Country ?

Yes.

Have

Have you used any New South Wales Wool in your Manufactures?

Mr. Richard Shaw.

No, I never use Foreign Articles, except that sometimes we use the Merinos in making very fine Bombasins for Spain; it is chiefly Lincoln and Leicester for the Camlets.

Do you know any thing of the Manufacture of Shawls at Norwich?

Yes.

Has there been any large Number of them sent out to China?

Not a large Quantity; I should think there have been some sent out for the last Five or Six Years.

Do you think the Demand for them has increased of late Years?

I think it has.

That is, comparatively speaking, a new Manufacture at Norwich, is it not?

No, Fifteen Years back I did a great deal in the Shawl Trade; it has been going to Glasgow; the Scotch have got it principally now, but there are some still making at Norwich.

Are there any other Woollen Goods beside Camlets for which there is an increasing Demand at Norwich for the American Trade?

Yes, there is a Plaid made called the Scotch Plaid; there is occasionally a very great Demand for them in America.

Are there any other Woollen Goods manufactured at Norwich?

No, not of any Consequence.

Are Crape Woollens?

Crape are Wool one way, and Silk another.

Have any new Colours been introduced, or any new Combination of Colours, into the Manufacture of Camlets of late Years?

No, I think not; there are no more Colours now than there were. There have not been any Rose Pinks in the Company's Orders of late.

Do you ever adopt new Colours or Combinations of Colours on Speculation, or do you wait for an Order?

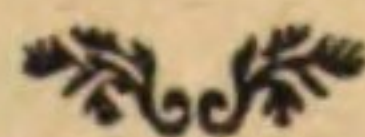
We always wait for an Order.

You never receive any Patterns of Foreign Camlets?

Never but once in my Life; that was a Colour they called the Esterhazy; they wished me to make Two or Three Pieces as Presents for the Hong Merchants.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Tuesday next, One o'Clock.



Die Martis, 6^o Julii 1830.

The LORD PRESIDENT in the Chair.

Captain RICHARD ALSAGER is called in, and examined as follows :

Evidence on
the Affairs of
the East India
Company, &c.

*Captain
Richard Alsager.*

What is your Profession ?

A Sailor. I have been Nine Voyages as an Officer in the Company's Service, and Five as a Commander.

You have been Fourteen Voyages in all ?

Yes ; and One as a Midshipman also.

Were those Voyages all to China ?

No ; only Nine ; Five as an Officer, and Four in command of the Waterloo, a Company's Ship of 1,325 Tons.

Did you rise to the Command of a Ship after Nine Voyages ?

Yes, I did.

What are the Rules of Promotion in the Company's Merchant Service ?

One entire Voyage to India before a Person can be sworn in as Fourth Mate, Two Voyages before he can be Third Officer, and One as Chief or Second, in all Four Voyages ; that is the most rapid Rise which can take place in the Company's Freight Service previous to obtaining a Command.

Is that what is called a Seniority Service ?

No ; the Company's own Service is a Seniority Service ; not the Freight.

In that Service you rose in Nine Voyages to the Situation of Commander ?

I did.

What is your Remuneration as Commander ?

The Allowance from the Company is 10*l.* a Month, and we are allowed 56 Tons of Privilege, and an Indulgence on what is called the Victualling Bill ; that is, Room for Stores for the Commander's Table. The Commander victuals the Chief and Second Officers, the Surgeon and the Purser.

Do you mean 56 Tons out and Home ?

Yes.

That is merely an Accommodation, not convertible into Money ?

It is considered by the Company as an Indulgence, and supposed to remunerate the Commander for the Expence of victualling the Four Officers, which are ordered to be accommodated at his Table.

If you desired to sell your Tonnage out and Home, what could you have got for it ?

Within these Two Voyages a very small Sum ; I can hardly say how much. I have merely heard of 30*l.* a Ton all round for the Commander's Privilege ; but I never had any thing offered to myself, and I never knew of a Commander's Privilege being sold, except from Hearsay.

Captain
Richard Alsager.

The inferior Officers sell their Privilege Tonnage, do they not?

As a Commander I have bought it, that they might pay more Attention to the Duties of the Ship, and I have given them a Sum that I did not expect to gain by, but that they should not be Losers for not trading.

What have you given?

I have given 40% a Ton to India, China, and including the Voyage Home; but I have never made any thing by it myself.

What Outward Investment have you carried to China?

I have had the good Fortune to obtain Double Voyages the last Four as a Commander.

By Double, you mean a circuitous Voyage?

Yes.

What was your Investment to India?

It was a Variety of Staple Articles and Manufactured Piece Goods, and such a Variety I can hardly enumerate them.

What was your Investment from India to China?

Cotton, chiefly.

Have you ever gone direct to China?

No, I have not, as a Commander.

Was the Cotton from India to China a profitable Investment?

One Voyage I lost Money, and a second it was not very profitable; the last Voyage it was profitable; the Cotton bore a good Price in the China Market.

What are your Homeward Investments?

Tea, Raw Silk, and Nankeen.

In what Proportions did you invest in those Three Articles?

Tea is a bulky Article; we can invest only about 6,000% in the Commander's Privilege, if he fills it entirely with Tea.

You prefer the less bulky and more valuable Article?

Yes; when our Funds are large in China, we are obliged to have recourse to them to get our Remittances home.

Did you invest largely in Silk?

About 7,000% the last Voyage.

How many Tons did that occupy?

About Seven Tons.

Was it a profitable Investment?

I made a very good Remittance; about 4s. 10d.

In what Year was that?

1826.

You mean that the Dollar was remitted at 4s. 10d.?

Yes; I reckoned it as 5s. in China, but 4s. 10d. was considered a good Remittance.

Was the Investment in Tea profitable?

After deducting the Expences and 25 per Cent. upon the gross Amount of Sales, it gave a Profit of about 1,500% on 6,500%.

Was that greater than the Profit on the Silk?

Yes, greater.

Notwithstanding the Taxation of the 25 per Cent.?

Yes.

In order to compare that Profit with the Profit which could be made by an Individual, you would have to deduct the Charges of Freight both Ways?

In reckoning the Profit upon my Tea, I made no Charge for my own Privilege Tonnage,

Tonnage, but only on that which I purchased from my Officers, and which I considered a fair Charge of Merchandize.

*Captain
Richard Alsager.*

What was your Profit on that Portion of the Investment which was in the Tonnage of the Officers which you purchased?

None at all; I did not look for a Profit.

Upon the whole Speculation, what should you consider the Profit?

Taking the Voyage round, and paying all Expences 'till I came clear Home, about 5,000*l.* is, I think, a very fair average Voyage; sometimes more, sometimes less.

What Per-centage would that make on the Capital invested?

My Capital was very large; 50,000*l.*

In what Manner do you calculate your Profit made on the Two Transactions, that of the Outward Cargo and that of the Homeward Cargo; how do you compare your original Purchase Money in England with the Produce of your Investment when you arrive again in England?

We reckon the Voyage round, from the first Investment 'till it returns Home again, and is paid in as Cash in England.

You consider the whole as One Transaction?

Yes; because when we arrive in India we sell our Investments, reckoning the Rupee at 2*s.* 6*d.* (or Eight to the Pound Sterling), and the Dollar at 5*s.* (or Four to the Pound Sterling); they are not worth so much, but it simplifies the Transaction; consequently we stand with a larger nominal Capital in India and China than we really possess; therefore the net Profit can only be ascertained when the Capital is realized at the End of the Voyage in England.

With whom did you transact Business at Canton?

With Howqua, the first of the Security Merchants. He is a Man of large Property, and I have always been anxious to deal with him. The Commander whom I sailed under dealt with him, and Howqua considered me as an old Friend; he has always taken my Investment, so that I have had no Trouble.

Have any other Captains experienced any Trouble?

I have heard that several of them, to obtain a higher Profit, sold to the Outside Merchants; and they have had bad Teas in their Investments to England, and also found Difficulty in getting their Money for the Goods they sold.

Did you ever export to China British Manufactures?

In going circuitously I endeavoured to sell them in India as the first Market.

Did you ever purchase any at Sincapore, and take them on?

Never.

Was it the habit of any Captain to do so?

Not those I have known.

Were you enabled, during your Residence at Canton, to ascertain whether the Sale of British Manufactures there by individual Merchants was productive of Profit?

The Market lately, I think, has been a great deal glutted; and although English Goods have fallen in England, they have not produced an equivalent Profit in China, but have fallen in proportion in China to what they have done in England.

Have they fallen in the same Proportion?

I should think rather more; we are in China a very short Period, and we have no sooner delivered our Outward Cargo than we are under the Company's Orders to take in our Homeward Cargo; and we have not the Power which those

*Captain
Richard Alsager.*

those in the Free Trade have of staying as long as suits them : we seldom stay in Port more than Four, Five, or Six Weeks.

Did you ever take Bills on the Company in England ?

Latterly the Company's Treasury was opened so very low, that I preferred taking Home an Investment of Goods to Bills drawn at the Rate of 4*s.* 3*d.* and 4*s.* 4*d.* a Dollar, and lately 4*s.*

What Quality of Tea have you generally brought Home in your Investment on your own Account ?

That depends entirely on the Fancy of the Individual ; my Purser, who is a Man of Business, had a great Fancy for Pekoe Tea, which is a scented Black Tea ; Four Fifths of Pekoe and One Fifth of Hyson or Gunpowder is what I have generally brought Home.

Has it been generally a better or an inferior Quality as compared with the Company's Teas ?

The Staple Teas of the Company's are certainly better ; but those I purchased are Fancy Teas, which the Company would not meddle with ; they are beneath their Notice ; they are in small Quantities in the Market.

It was your Interest, having but a limited Amount of Tonnage, to purchase those Teas which were of higher Value ?

I purchased those that I thought would give me the best Profit ?

Have you found, in the Course of your Experience, any Change in the Taste of the Public here as to Teas, which has induced you to make any Change in your Investment ?

In the Four Voyages I have been a Commander I have generally dealt in the fine Green and scented Black Teas ; others have fallen into my Steps during the last Voyage, and the Price of those Teas rose very much in Canton ; it is merely a Speculation.

You say that that Part of the Investment which consisted of English Manufactures you disposed of in the Ports of India in preference to China ?

I thought I could make a better Sale in India, compared with China ; and besides which, there was another Opportunity of turning the Capital between India and China.

Have you ever carried any English Manufactures to China ?

A very small Quantity.

When you did so, did you find it easy to dispose of them ?

They were some I could not get rid of in Bengal, or in the short Time I stopped at Sincapore ; so I took them as a forlorn Hope to China.

What did they consist of ?

It was a few Bales of coloured Handkerchiefs.

Did you dispose of them to a Profit in China ?

No ; reckoning the Dollar at 4*s.* there was no Profit ; I did not get Prime Cost.

Did you ever take any Woollens ?

No.

In respect to that you disposed of in India, was it a Description of Articles for the Use of the Europeans, or of the Natives ?

The Piece Goods were chiefly for the Native Consumption ; it was Manufactured Cottons.

The rest of the Investment consisted of Articles for the Europeans ?

Yes ; in a Variety of Cloths, and a Variety of Shop Articles.

Do you know of any other Officers of your Ship, or Commanders, who have taken out any Woollen Goods to China ?

I have heard of several ; but we keep our own Transactions a good deal to ourselves ; I think there is not much open Communication between us as to what

what we are doing. I am aware that they have done it, but I cannot say what Profit they have made by it.

*Captain
Richard Alsager.*

The Ship in which you sailed, the Waterloo, was of 1,300 Tons ?
Yes, it was.

What was the Rate of Freight of your Ship ?

She is one of the Company's own Ships ; they put a nominal Freight upon her ; I believe the Average of the Season in which she was built ; I have but little Knowledge of the Freight and Charges ; my Duty is to sail the Ship as economically as I can, and obey the Company's Orders.

Are the Company's own Ships equipped in the same Way as those they hire ?

Yes.

Is that Equipment more complete than that of a Man-of-War, going on so long a Voyage ?

I should think not. The Ships are well found, but not more amply than necessary. I have only had the Command of a Ship since the Peace, and I have been fortunate enough to make very good Passages, and there has been a Surplus of Provisions left at the End of it ; but considering the Length of the Voyage, and the Uncertainty of Wind and Weather, there were no more than were requisite for the Voyage.

What is the Number of the Men ?

One hundred and thirty-five Men ; that is, One hundred and thirty, and Five to cover Casualties ; and Five Marine Boys.

What is the Number of Guns ?

Twenty-six Guns.

Of what Calibre were they ?

Twenty Eighteen-pounders ; not long Eighteens ; they are about Six Feet Six Inches long ; what we call the Middle Class Gun—the Ship Gun ; and Six Thirty-two Pound Carronades.

With that Number of Men, could you have fought both Sides of that Ship in Action ?

I am afraid not.

Could you have fought One Side if it had been blowing fresh ?

I hope we could.

To what sized Privateer or Man-of-War should you have considered yourself equal in point of Strength ?

I should hope we should have been able to compete with a Privateer of equal Number of Guns, being higher up in the Water than they are.

In a heavy Sea ?

Yes, I should think so.

Would not a Privateer have had Guns of much smaller Calibre if she had Twenty-six Guns ?

I think several of the French Privateers in the late War had One or Two long Guns, and they had an Advantage over our Ships on that Account.

Do you know of any Privateer of Twenty-six Guns carrying Eighteen-pounders ?

I think the Blonde was probably Twenty-six, or she might carry Thirty ; she had Eighteen-pounders. I think they would prefer a long Gun or Two, that they might disable a Ship at a long Distance, without coming to close Action.

If any Privateer with which you have been engaged had had Guns of a very much smaller Calibre than you had, would not you have a very great Advantage over her from your Height in the Water ?

Yes, if she came within Reach of us.

Captain
Richard Alsager.

What are the Duties paid upon a Ship of 1,300 Tons at Canton?
Rather more than 4,000 Ounces of Silver; about One Pound a Ton, I think it is, in round Numbers.

What Proportion of that Sum of 4,000 Ounces of Silver is paid for the Ship, without reference to her Size?

Nineteen hundred and fifty Tales; that is what is called Cumshaw, which is given generally for all Ships, without any Allusion to her Size.

That is the same on all Ships?

I believe it is the same on all Ships.

With that Exception, the Duty is according to the Measurement?

Yes; it is a peculiar Mode of Measurement.

As regards that Mode of Measurement, do you apprehend that the Portion of Duty which is paid upon the Size of the Ship is greater in proportion upon a smaller Ship than it is upon a larger one?

The Returns shew that it is; on a Ship of 1,300 Tons it amounts to 1*l.* a Ton, on a 500 Ton Ship about 2*l.* a Ton, the entire Port Charges.

The Question refers to that Portion of the Port Charges which depends upon the Measurement of the Ship?

I suppose it would come to Double.

That would be in proportion to the Size of the respective Vessels?

It is partly in proportion to the Number of Tons, for there is a greater Space unmeasured in a large than a small.

Is that Proportion unmeasured in proportion to the Size of the Ship?

The Distance from our Fore-mast to the Bows, which is unmeasured, and from the Mizzen-mast to the Taffrail, is Double what it is in a small Ship; then the Depth of the Hold is Seventeen Feet instead of Twelve, that is not measured; which makes the Charges on a small Ship Double.

If the one is 500 Tons, and the other 1,000 Tons, they would be the same per Ton?

The Company's Ships of 1,300 Tons bring Home on an Average, including Private Trade, 1,500 Tons of Tea; Average Charge for Measurement in China, 2,300 Tales; Cumshaw, 1,950 Tales; Total Charge, 4,250 Tales; not quite 1*l.* per Ton (3 Tales). The Surrey of 443 Tons:—Charge for Measurement, 1,253 Tales; Cumshaw, 1,950 Tales; Total, 3,203 Tales; about 7¼ Tales or 2*l.* 10*s.* per Ton. The Earl Spencer of 521 Tons:—Charge for Measurement, 1,511 Tales, and 1,950 Tales Cumshaw, making 3,461 Tales, (6⅔ Tales) 2*l.* 4*s.* per Ton.

In making that Calculation you include the Cumshaw?

Yes; every thing.

What is the Difference in Freight between a Ship of 500 Tons and a Ship of 1,200 Tons?

There are Three Ships which have performed their Six Voyages with nearly a full Equipment, at 18*l.* 19*s.* per Ton.

What would be the Freight of a Ship of 500 Tons?

The last Tender for Four Ships was 13*l.* 18*s.*

Was that Tender for the circuitous or the direct Voyage?

The direct Voyage.

The Difference therefore is 5*l.* between a Ship of 500 Tons and that of 1,200 Tons?

Yes.

Deduct the 1*l.* for the Difference of Duties, and the Difference would still be 4*l.* between the large and the small Ship?

Yes.

(11) As

As an Indian Merchant, should you prefer sending your Goods to China by a small or a large Ship?

I am afraid, in a pecuniary Point of View, I must yield in favour of the small; but there are Advantages in favour of the large Ship which I think may counterbalance whatever Difference there may be in a pecuniary Point of View; they are more roomy, healthy, and are good Sea Boats, easily manageable, and imposing in their Appearance; they carry a Surgeon and a Surgeon's Assistant: the Company's Instructions, and the Mode of Victualing, all shew an Attention to the Comforts of the Seamen that a small Ship does not possess, and worthy a great Commercial Nation.

All those Circumstances would induce a Person to go to China in a large Ship rather than a small one; but would that induce a Merchant to send his Goods in a large Ship rather than a small one?

I am afraid that the Merchants now are obliged to cut very close, and certainly the small Ship is the lowest in Expence.

Are the large China Ships Frigate-built, or are they built for the Purpose of carrying Tea?

They are built with a Poop, but in the Model of the Ship it is intended to carry a very large Cargo.

In point of sailing, would they compete with a Vessel built for War?

The Waterloo is a very fast sailing Ship. I have been in Company with Vessels of War, and we made a very good Figure; we like a good strong Breeze. I came Home in Twenty-one Days from the Line, and we averaged 200 Miles, and I have run 260 Miles by Observation; it is not a bad sailing Ship which can do that.

Are the large China Ships under-masted in consequence of the small Number of Men on board?

We are fully masted.

Are your Masts as large as they would be if the Vessel was wanted for War?

I think as large as the Vessel would bear; as large as she ought to have.

Do you apprehend there are great Advantages in the Shipment of Tea in a large Vessel over a small one?

The Tea is taken in with Quickness, and stowed at once without being moved. After forming the Level of the Hold, which is called the Ground Tier, it is then all simple, and will take near Fifteen hundred Chests in One Level; it is very quickly done, for it is only placing them and screwing them close. The upper Part of the Hold requires more Time; Two Chops One Day, and One Chop another, are what is considered fair Work, doing Justice to the Ship, and taking as much as we can; we could take more, perhaps, but with Risk of losing Stowage.

Can you embark your Cargo in a large Ship quicker than a small one?

I think we could.

Could you fill a Vessel of 1,200 Tons as quickly as one of 500?

No, I think not in the same Time; but I think we can do it in a less Time proportionably.

Sooner than Two Ships of 500 Tons?

Yes.

You could load a 1,200 Ton Ship in the same Time as a 500 Ton Ship nearly?

I have no doubt of that.

What Time does it take to load your Ship?

We could do it in a Fortnight; the forming the Level takes the greatest Time; after that is complete, the Chests of Tea being of the same Size, they are soon placed.

*Captain
Richard Alsager.*

If you were to bring Home Tea from China as a Merchant, should you prefer bringing it in a large to bringing it in a small one?

Yes, certainly, at nearly the same Freight.

You think that the Tea would come Home in a better State?

I think probably it would; I should prefer it myself; but Tea is a Cargo which does not damage much.

You have stated that the Company take a Duty of 25 per Cent. on the Sale Price of Teas sold at their Sales; what Duty do they take on the Sale Price of Silks and other Chinese Articles?

It is a very small Per-centage on Silk; I am not exactly aware what it is; the net Amount of Sale is given to us at the India House after those Charges are deducted.

Not more, probably, than to cover the Expences of the Warehousing and Sale?

No, I think not; and the Expenditure of repacking, and so on.

Are you aware that a considerable Quantity of the Privilege Tea has been refused by the Buyers at the recent Sales at the India House?

That is the Tea, I suppose, which has been bought from the Outside Merchants, Men of not very good Capital; needy Men, who have given a higher Price for the Outward Investment; some of them require much Caution as to what you take in Return, or they will sell you a bad Article.

Then you conceive that to be rejected on account of its being of bad Quality?

Yes; or not Tea at all, some of it, I believe.

Are you aware that the Quantity rejected has increased very much of late Years?

No, I was not aware of that; I have never had any rejected.

What do you consider it to be, if it was not Tea?

Sloe Leaves and other Leaves; not Leaves of the Tea. I understood some of it was so bad it was not permitted to be sold.

It appears that in the Year 1823-4 8,347 lbs only of Private Trade Tea were refused by the Buyers; that the following Year 184,640 lbs. of Tea was refused by the Buyers of the Private Trade Tea; your Inference is, that that must have been in consequence of the inferior Quality of the Tea?

I have no doubt of that.

Are you acquainted with the Manner in which the Americans conduct their Trade at Canton?

We see them at Canton, but we have not any great Intercourse with them.

Do you know whether they purchase of the Outside Merchants?

I believe they purchase indiscriminately.

What is the general Class and Size of their Vessels?

They are very handy Vessels, from 400 to 500 Tons.

What Number of Men would a Ship of 500 Tons require?

About Six Men to the Hundred.

Are the American Ships built with reference to the Cargo?

They are generally built handier than the English; their Mode of measuring in America, I believe, is different. Depth is not reckoned in an English Ship; consequently our Ships are built deeper. I think they take Length, Breadth, and Depth. In England it is Length, Breadth, and Half the Breadth.

Are they more or less convenient for loading a Cargo than ours?

They are quite as convenient, and they are a very fine Class of Ships.

In what Part of the Ship do they take the Depth?

I suppose the extreme Depth. I do not know whether they take it to the Bottom

Bottom of the Keel or to the Floor Timber ; we take it to the Floor Timber in our Builder's Measurement, but it is not entered into the Registered Tonnage.

*Captain
Richard Alsager.*

Had you any Opportunity of ascertaining the comparative Rate of sailing between our Vessels and the Americans ?

I have been in company with them, and have beat them ; but I think in light Winds their Vessels would sail better than mine would do.

You have spoken of some bad Tea being included in the Investment of some of the Private Trade ; is there much of that adulterated Tea in the Markets of Canton ?

I have had so little Intercourse with the Outside Merchants, dealing always with Howqua, that I cannot say ; I have heard of a great deal of deteriorated Tea, but it has not come under my own Observation.

Are the Ships engaged in the Country Trade of India fine Ships ?

Some of them are very fine Ships, and have been turned over to the East India Company afterwards ; some of them taken into His Majesty's Service as Frigates.

Of what Size are the largest ?

Twelve hundred Tons.

Are they built at Bombay ?

Yes ; the Scaleby Castle was built at Bombay.

Do you know at what Rate per Ton they build at Bombay ?

No.

Are they as well built as English Ships ?

I think they have the Advantage of crooked Timber ; I should say they are stronger built.

They are not inferior in any respect ?

No ; the finest Merchant Ship in the World is the Earl of Balcarras, in the Company's Service, built at Bombay, of Fourteen hundred Tons.

Was she built of Teak ?

Yes.

Have you had Occasion to observe the Manner in which those large Ships are managed by Native Sailors ?

In warm Weather there is no Sailor more active than the Clashee (the Native Sailor of India) ; they are not good Helmsmen, and they are not fit for cold Weather ; but for the Purpose of Navigation in warm Climates, they are as smart and active as any People ; they have not the Stamina of a British Sailor, and they require more of them, for their Strength is not equal.

Could they rig as well as the British ?

Yes ; I have tried them. I have had Main-top Men of one Sort, and Fore-top Men of another, and they have taken in the Sail quicker and set it quicker ; they are more active and light, and run out on the Yard lighter ; a British Sailor carries more Weight with him ; One British Sailor would be equal to Two, as far as Weight goes.

How many Men should there be on board a Country Ship of 1,400 Tons ?

The Ship's Company of a Country Ship is not encumbered with such a String of Officers as we have in our Company's Ships. There would be Three or Four Officers in one of the large Ships, and One Commander ; all the rest would be effective Men ; but there should be, I think, about 180 Men ; that would be equal to nearly Double our Ship's Company in Number, but not in effective Strength. In the War Time, when the Navy used to press our Men, and we were obliged to take Native Seamen to make up our Complement, we reckoned Two Natives to One European.

Upon the whole, should you consider that a Native Country Ship sails at a cheaper Rate than a British Ship ?

I should think they would while they remained in India, but not when they come to England ; the Lascars are not equal to encountering the Cold ; they

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require warm Clothing and better Fare ; but in India they live on Rice and a little Fish.

Are the Sails all made in India ?

There is an extensive Canvass Manufactory in Bengal ; but I have seen some made of European Canvass.

Does that Canvass bear a hard Gale ?

It does ; but it must be taken great Care of, or it will rot.

What are the comparative Qualities of the English and the Indian Rope ?

English Rope is better for all Services, and Indian Rope for some Services. Indian Rope is very good for Tackle-falls, and where it runs through Blocks ; it is a light Rope ; the English Rope is clogged with Tar, and that oozes out in hot Weather ; then there is the Manilla Rope, which is very good if it is kept out of the Rain.

Are the Cables of Indian Rope ?

Yes.

Do they keep perfectly well ?

Yes ; but it requires great Caution ; they must be kept dry ; they must be often hauled up and exposed to the Sun ; they require sprinkling with Salt, and a Variety of Precautions which they are used to in Country Ships.

That Care being taken, is their Canvass and is their Rope so good as our own ?

I think not quite.

If you were fitting out a Ship at Bombay for a Voyage to China, should you purchase English or Native Stores ?

For the running Rigging, perhaps, from being cheaper, I might have recourse to Country Materials, because it would answer my Purpose for standing Rigging, if I could be certain of its being quite new ; but that sent out to India, if left in Store, is apt to get rotten before it comes into Use.

Would you purchase Indian Canvass for your Sails ?

No ; I think the English would make up in Durability any Difference there might be in Price.

The English Rope is the strongest ?

Yes, certainly.

Did it appear to you that a material Improvement could be introduced into the Manufacture of Canvass and Rope in India ?

I cannot say, indeed ; I have never entered into the Formation of them.

Are they made of Indian Hemp ?

Yes.

Are Iron Cables much used ?

I had an Iron Cable in the Waterloo the Four Voyages, and scarcely ever let go an Hempen one ; I always preferred the Iron one.

You are obliged to have a certain Portion of Europeans on board ?

We must have Three Fifths of European British Subjects on board.

Do you imagine it would be essential for the Safety of the Ship in the Time of Peace, that she should be armed in the Manner you have stated ?

It is a long Voyage to look forward to, and we can scarcely know what Changes may take place ; the Company, in their Wisdom, have said that the Ship shall be effective for whatever may take place ; and the Ship could be made equal to warlike Purposes immediately, if necessary.

Putting aside any Purposes of War as connected with National Disputes, is it necessary for her Safety against Pirates, and so forth, that a Ship should be armed in the Way in which she is ?

I think, when we consider the Value of her Cargo, and the Company being their own Underwriters, that their Equipment is not greater than might be required to cope with the Pirates we have heard of as cruizing in various Directions.

Are

Are there any other Particulars in the Equipment of those Ships which, in your Opinion, might be altered so as to produce more economical sailing?

I can scarcely say; with their present Equipment they are more than well formed; we have been reducing the Stores by Degrees, and at present there is no more than they ought to have. The great Objection has been with respect to Two new Cables every Voyage; but when a Cable has been Two Years on the former Voyage, it is not unpleasant to have a new one to stand by in case of a Gale of Wind.

Do you know any Instances in which the small Vessels employed by the Americans have suffered by not having the same warlike Equipment?

I have merely heard of Instances; I go merely by public Reports; there are several of them have been attacked by Privateers and plundered lately.

Are they not armed?

They have had Two or Four small Guns.

You do know of Instances in which they have been attacked by Privateers and plundered?

Individually I do not; I go by Hearsay. The Saint Helena Schooner was attacked, and her Crew murdered, except some of her Men which stowed themselves away, and who have reported it.

Are there not Dangers of that sort in the Indian Archipelago?

Not of Pirate Ships; they are chiefly Boats. I think there is no Danger to be apprehended from them unless by Surprise, or being obliged to have recourse to Boats. Where the Alceste was lost there was a Portuguese Ship; we sent Boats to see what she was, and the Pirates attacked us in the Boats, but they did not attempt to attack the Ship; they beat us off the Ground once, but on our coming back with a Reinforcement they run away.

Is it your Opinion that those Ships might be navigated with a smaller Number of Officers than they are at present?

I think they might; we have Eight Midshipmen; I do not think they are necessary; but it is a Nursery for young Officers.

How many Officers have you altogether?

A Commander and Six Officers, that is, Six Mates; and Eight Midshipmen, a Surgeon, a Surgeon's Assistant, and a Purser. I think there are almost Forty on the List before we come to the Fore-mast Men; that is, reckoning Caulker, Caulker's Mates, Sail Maker, Cooper, Baker, Butcher, and Poulterer, &c.

Do you know how far down in the List you would go in a Man-of-War with a Complement of 130 Men, before you come to the Fore-mast Men?

I think about the same.

How do you divide your Watches?

The Officers are divided into Three Watches when we get out of the Channel.

Do you know of any Country Trade Ships having visited any Ports North of Canton?

I have heard of their trying it with Opium; the first that tried it answered, I understand.

Supposing you had no warlike Equipment on board those Vessels, how many Men would be necessary to navigate?

I think, with the Exception of some of her Officers, she requires her whole Crew; the Masts and Yards are large, and she requires a large Number of Men to navigate her.

In Time of Peace, do you conceive that the Danger of Attack from Pirates is considerable in any Ship trading to China?

I think not great. We have lately found the South American Ports sending out Ships well armed; and our Instructions from the Company are to keep our Guns clear, and to exercise Twice a Week.

*Captain
Richard Alsager.*

Have you ever fallen in with any who could have taken your Ship but for those warlike Preparations?

I think some of them have Ten, Fifteen, and some of them Twenty Guns, with a Number of Men on board, and Desperadoes the whole of them, I believe.

In Time of War, should you conceive that the Ships you have commanded would be able to escape from or contend with any Man-of-War mounting Twenty Guns, well managed and well fought?

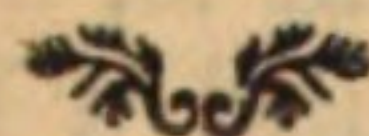
A Man-of-War's Equipment will be always superior to that of a Merchant Ship; but I should hope, with proper Attention to training the Ship's Company, we should be able to defend ourselves against nearly an equal Force.

Putting out of the Question that warlike Equipment, you are not of Opinion that any Saving could be made in the Equipment of your Vessels beyond some Reduction in the Number of your Officers?

I think not; I am not aware of any.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to this Day Se'nnight,
Two o'Clock.



Minutes of evidence ... to inquire into the present state of the affairs
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